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Rains: Hills crumble, homes submerge in North

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Markets end 4-day rally; bank stocks major drag

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Ayush wins maiden US Open title; Tanvi runner-up

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SALAR

DIGITAL ENGLISH DAILY, BENGALURU

سالار روزنامہ بنگلور

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CM Siddaramaiah holds DyCM DK Shivakumar's hand in a symbolic show of unity **PHOTO: SCREENGRAB**

Cong crisis manager Surjewala steps in amid dissent

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Amid murmurs of internal dissent and speculation over a leadership shake-up, AICC General Secretary and Karnataka in-charge Randeep Singh Surjewala has begun a three-day round of meetings with Congress MLAs in Bengaluru.

Focusing on one-on-one interactions, Surjewala is expected to gather feedback on the government's performance and address grievances, particularly from legislators in regions like Chikkaballapura and Kolar. The meetings come as some MLAs have voiced dissatisfaction with the administration and hinted at deeper unrest.

This follows controversial remarks by Cooperation Minister KN Rajanna, suggesting "revolutionary" political developments post-September, fuelling speculation of a cabinet reshuffle and a possible change in state party leadership. Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar currently holds the KPCC president post.

> **This government will be as solid as a 'bande' (rock) for five years. We (He and DK Shivakumar) are on good terms**
>
> —Siddaramaiah, CM

Home Minister G Parameshwara clarified that Surjewala's visit is routine and aimed at reviewing political and organisational issues. However, it is seen as a bid to manage growing unrest.

MLAs B R Patil and Raju Kage have publicly criticised the government — Patil alleged bribery in housing allotments, while Kage threatened resignation over delays in fund releases. BJP and JD(S) seized the moment, accusing the Congress of corruption and demanding the resignation of CM Siddaramaiah and Housing Minister BZ Zameer Ahmed Khan.

Siddaramaiah has since met both MLAs and assured them their concerns will be addressed. Pressure is also building for a cabinet reshuffle as the government nears its two-year mark in office. *—PTI*

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NA Haris: I cut BDA complaint redressal time to 10 days

MOHAMMED YOUSUF

In an interview with Salar News, Congress MLA NA Haris, representing Bengaluru's Shanthinagar since 2008 and BDA Chairman for 18 months, spoke about his efforts to reform the BDA, including digitisation and faster complaint resolution. He highlighted key development projects like a 300-bed hospital and new educational institutions in his constituency. Haris expressed confidence in deserving a Cabinet berth but said he won't make noise if overlooked, calling it a loss for the State. He also emphasised unity among Muslim legislators and supported a caste census for fair reservations.

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NAVY HELPS OMAN

A Palau-flagged ship with 14 Indian crew members caught fire en route from Kandla to Shinas, Oman. Indian Navy's stealth frigate INS Tabar, deployed in the Gulf of Oman, swiftly responded to the distress call from MT Yi Cheng 6 on Sunday **PHOTO: PTI**

Pakistan & China in talks to replace SAARC with new bloc

India to be invited, participation uncertain

PHOTO: FREEPIK

ISLAMABAD, 30 JUNE

Pakistan and China are in advanced discussions to establish a new regional organisation aimed at boosting South Asian connectivity and integration, potentially replacing the long-dormant South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), according to The Express Tribune.

Citing diplomatic sources, the report suggests both Islamabad and Beijing see the new grouping as vital due to SAARC's paralysis, caused largely by longstanding India-Pakistan tensions. SAARC, comprising India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka, has not held a summit since 2014.

Recent trilateral talks in Kunming involving Pakistan, China, and Bangladesh were seen as groundwork for the proposed grouping. While Dhaka later denied forming any new alliance, calling the meeting non-political, the initiative reportedly aims to draw in other SAARC nations, including Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Afghanistan.

According to sources, India would be invited to the new proposed forum, though its participation remains uncertain given strained relations with Pakistan and China, while countries like Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Afghanistan are expected to be part of the grouping.

The proposed bloc's focus would be on promoting regional trade and connectivity, in contrast to SAARC's political deadlock.

SAARC's 2016 summit, scheduled in Islamabad, was cancelled after India withdrew following the Uri terror attack. Other countries, including Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Afghanistan, also declined to attend, leading to the forum's effective suspension. *—PTI*

China open to border talks, says dispute with India 'complex'

Beijing, 30 June

Beijing has said the boundary dispute with India is "complicated" and will take time to resolve, but expressed readiness to discuss border delimitation and maintain peace. The statement follows Defence Minister Rajnath Singh's meeting with his Chinese counterpart Dong Jun in Qingdao during the SCO summit. Singh called for action to de-escalate tensions and bridge the trust deficit post the 2020 Ladakh standoff. China's Foreign Ministry affirmed commitment to diplomatic and military talks, urging continued dialogue to keep the border tranquil and stable.

Moral collapse: Court on 70-yr-old J&K tourist's rape

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

A court in Jammu and Kashmir's Anantnag has denied bail to a man accused of raping a 70-year-old tourist.

Terming the incident a 'moral decay' of society, the judge said that Kashmir's natural beauty alone cannot make it a popular tourist destination unless the moral fabric is preserved.

The victim, hailing from Maharashtra, was raped at a hotel in Jammu and Kashmir's Pahalgam on 11 April.

The accused barged into the woman's hotel room, gagged her with a blanket and then raped her. The woman was critically injured.

The court observed that the woman was 'treated so shockingly' and condemned the incident as a moral collapse, considering the victim's age.

It also cited the gravity of the situation, the ongoing investigation, and the available evidence for rejecting the bail plea of the accused, Zubair Ahmed.

The principle of 'bail' can be applied only after considering factors like the seriousness of the offence, the risk of the accused fleeing, tampering with evidence and the broader impact on society.

Nothing in the bail application or the arguments by the counsel of the accused justified the release of the accused, the court said.

The court stressed Kashmir's image as the "paradise on earth" rested on its moral and cultural values. *—Agencies*

Emergency services personnel at the site after an explosion at a pharma plant at Pashamylaram, in Sangareddy, Telangana **PHOTO: PTI**

12 dead in T'gana pharma blast

HYDERABAD, 30 JUNE

At least 12 were killed and 34 others suffered injuries in the explosion that took place at a pharma plant in Sangareddy near Hyderabad on Monday.

Of the 34 undergoing treatment at nearby hospitals, 12 are critical and on life support. Additionally, some employees are still feared trapped under the debris, raising concerns about an increase in death toll.

About 90 people were working inside when the blast occurred at Sigachi Industries, a three-storeyed pharmaceutical company in the Pashamylaram Industrial Area.

Officials said that the impact of the blast was felt for about 5km in the Pashamylaram area.

Offering condolences to the victims' families, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a compensation of Rs 2 lakh for the next of kin of the deceased and Rs 50,000 for the injured.

Telangana CM A Revanth Reddy directed officials to take all steps to rescue the trapped workers and provide them advanced medical care.

Talking about what caused the explosion, Y Nagi Reddy, Director General of the Telangana State Disaster Response and Fire Services said, "Experts are saying that during the drying or handling process, the pressure could have built up followed by the blasting of the material, which led to the blasting of the entire handling unit as well as the industrial building."

Meanwhile, at least half of a dozen bodies would have to undergo DNA profiling to establish identity as they were charred beyond recognition according to officials. *—PTI*

PM Modi to address Parl of Trinidad and Tobago

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address a joint session of Trinidad and Tobago's Parliament during his official visit to the island nation in July. Modi will embark on a five-nation tour on 2 July to participate in the BRICS Summit in Brazil and expand India's ties with several Global South nations. During the visit, Modi will hold talks with President of Trinidad and Tobago Christine Carla Kangaloo and Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar. *—PTI*

India to launch 52 defence satellites by 2026

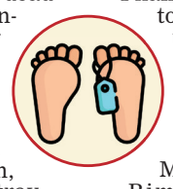
NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

India is accelerating the deployment of 52 defence surveillance satellites BY 2026 to bolster its space-based surveillance, particularly along its borders with China and Pakistan, and in the Indian Ocean Region. Valued at Rs 26,968 crore, the initiative seeks to enhance real-time monitoring and bolster border security. Under Phase 3 of the Space-Based Surveillance initiative,ISRO will be responsible for launching 21 satellites. *—Agencies*

UNIDENTIFIED GUNMEN KILL FOUR IN MANIPUR'S CHURACHANDPUR

CHURACHANDPUR, 30 JUNE

In a tragic incident in Manipur's Churachandpur district, four individuals, including a 72-year-old woman, were shot dead by unidentified gunmen on Monday afternoon. The ambush occurred near Mongjang village, approximately five kilometres from Churachandpur town, as the victims were travelling in a car around 2pm. Preliminary investigations suggest they were targeted at point-blank range, with over a dozen bullet shells recovered from the scene.



The United Kuki National Liberation Army (UKNLA) has claimed responsibility for the attack. The deceased have been identified as Thenkhothang Haokip alias Thahpi, 48, Seikhogin, 34, Lengouhao, 35, and Phalhing, 72. In response to the violence, additional security forces have been deployed to the area.

In a related development, Inner Manipur MP Akoijam Bimol Angomcha accused the state of enforcing an "imaginary and unconstitutional" buffer zone, after being prevented by central forces from visiting a village in his constituency. *—PTI*

Ramchander to be new T'gana BJP Prez, T Raja quits party

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

N Ramchander Rao **Photo: X**

Veteran Bharatiya Janata Party leader and ex-MLC N Ramachander Rao is likely to become the new president of the party in Telangana.

Rao is the only person to file the nomination for the post.

Rao will head the Telangana BJP for the next three years. The party will conduct internal elections on 1 July.

Malkajgiri MP Eatala Rajender was considered as a possible replacement for Union minister and Secunderabad MP Kishan Reddy who has been holding the position.

The development is important after the BJP's impressive win in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections last year.

Votes will to be cast and the result declared on the same day, but the final decision would be taken in a day or two.

PVN Madhav to be Andhra BJP chief

Senior BJP leader PVN Madhav is set to replace D Purandeswari as the Andhra Pradesh BJP president, having emerged as the sole candidate to file nomination for the post on Monday.

Madhav, a former MLC, filed five sets of nomination papers, a BJP leader said. *—PTI*

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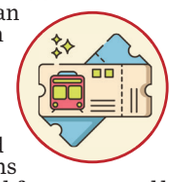
RAILWAY FARES SET TO INCREASE FROM 1 JULY

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE



The Indian Ministry of Railways has announced an increase in fares for non-air-conditioned classes in mail and express trains by 1 paisa and for all air-conditioned classes by 2 paise per kilometre, effective 1 July.

Officials had signalled the pending fare adjustments on June 24, with the official circular detailing the fare structure released today. Suburban train fares and monthly season tickets remain unchanged to benefit daily commuters.

Ordinary second-class fares will not rise for distances up to 500km, while journeys exceeding that distance will incur an additional charge of half a paisa per kilometre. Passengers in ordinary sleeper and first classes will also face a fare increase of half a paisa per kilometre from next month.

The fare revision will extend to premier and special services, including Rajdhani, Shatabdi, and Vande Bharat trains, as well as various other train categories and coaches, according to the newly published class-wise fare structure. *—PTI*

'FOREST DEGRADATION'

Govt subverting Forest Right Act: 90 groups writes to PM

NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, over 90 forest rights groups have taken a strong exception to Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav's alleged remarks that the Forest Rights Act (FRA) leads to "forest degradation."

Yadav is attempting to "subvert" the law, read the letter sent by groups including Chhattisgarh Bachao Andolan, Himdhara Environment Research and Action Collective of Himachal.

The letter pointed out that according to a statement published in a newspaper on 5 June, the Union Minister "cited titles granted under the FRA as a reason for forest degradation." Activists further criticise the minister for "false, misleading, legally untenable and an attempt to undermine the legitimacy of the FRA."

The activists' groups wrote that the Supreme Court and NGT should be immediately informed about the legal status of forest encroachments under FRA wrote activists and that no action on encroachment can be taken until the FRA implementation process is complete.

They also alleged that Yadav submitted legally untenable data on encroachments in Parliament and the NGT.

Writing about how forest dwellers' rights were violated, the letter cited the National Tiger Conservation Authority's 2024 order expediting the relocation of 64,801 families from core areas of tiger reserves and how it was in complete violation of FRA and other legal frameworks.

They claimed it has increased the risk of displacement, forced evictions, curtailment of rights and criminalisation of forest dwellers. *—PTI*

Kharge: Cong High Command decides on CM change

CM says govt will last 'rock solid' for 5 yrs

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

Amid growing speculation over a potential change in Karnataka's leadership, Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge clarified that any decision lies solely with the party high command and warned against unnecessary disruption.

His remarks came after some state Congress leaders suggested that Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar might replace Chief Minister Siddaramaiah later this year, reviving rumours of a power-sharing formula agreed upon in 2023.

Kharge, responding to media queries, said AICC General Secretary Randeep Singh Surjewala was in Bengaluru to meet party legislators and submit a report to the high command. "Based on his feedback, the party will decide the next steps," he said.

Meanwhile, CM Siddaramaiah reaffirmed the government's stability, asserting that the Congress-led administration would remain "solid as a rock" for five years. Appearing with Shivakumar in Mysuru, he dismissed rumours of a rift, stating, "We are on good terms." The duo even raised each other's hands to signal unity.

Siddaramaiah, speaking to reporters in Mysuru, said, "He is the AICC General Secretary in-charge. He will seek the opinion of MLAs, hear their concerns, and assess what needs to be done to strengthen the organisation. He will do his job."

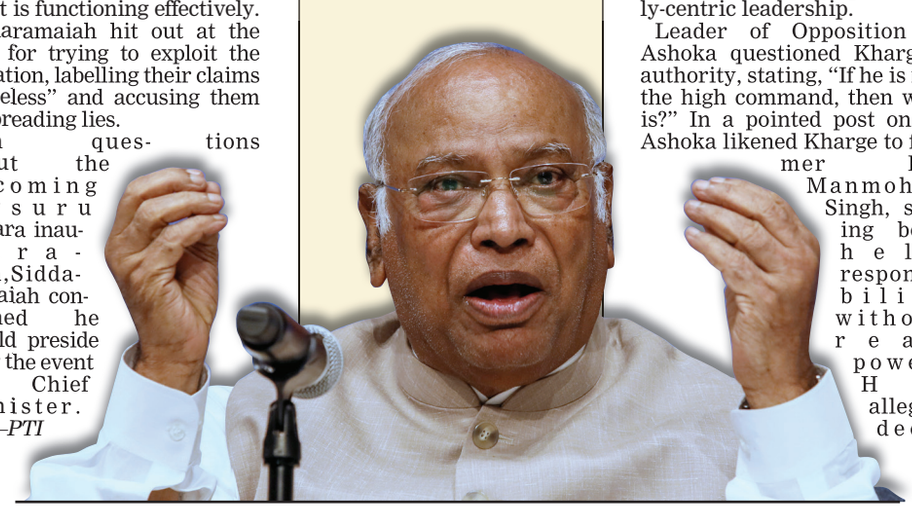
Home Minister G Parameshwara urged party leaders to respect internal boundaries. While noting that expressing opinions isn't wrong, he warned against crossing the "Lakshman Rekha" set by the party. He added that the high command would address the matter, especially in light of recent statements by MLAs H A Iqbal Hussain and K N Rajanna, who hinted at leadership changes post-September.

Internal dissent has also surfaced in recent weeks. Congress MLA BR Patil alleged bribery in the housing sector, while MLA Raju Kage expressed frustration over administrative delays.

Despite these internal challenges, Congress leaders stressed that the state government is functioning effectively. Siddaramaiah hit out at the BJP for trying to exploit the situation, labelling their claims "baseless" and accusing them of spreading lies.

On questions about the upcoming Mysuru Dasara inauguration, Siddaramaiah confirmed he would preside over the event as Chief Minister. *—PTI*

> Congress will fight tooth and nail if any word is touched in the Constitution. RSS leader Dattatreya Hosabale's doesn't want the poor to come up. That's why he doesn't like socialism, secularism and liberty, equality and fraternity
>
> **Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress President. RSS wants to remove 'socialism, secularism' from the Constitution**



If you are not High Command, who is: BJP roasts Kharge

BJP claims Sonia Gandhi makes the decisions

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

BJP leaders have launched a sharp attack on Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge, calling him an "accidental AICC president" and accusing the Congress of functioning through opaque, family-centric leadership.

Leader of Opposition R Ashoka questioned Kharge's authority, stating, "If he is not the high command, then who is?" In a pointed post on X, Ashoka likened Kharge to former PM Manmohan Singh, saying both held responsibility without real power. He alleged decisions in the Congress are made "behind closed doors at 10 Janpath", the residence of Sonia Gandhi.

"Same script, new actor. Still directed by the Gandhi family," Ashoka claimed, referring to the perceived centralised power of the Gandhis in party matters.

BJP MP Tejasvi Surya added to the chorus, likening the Congress high command to a ghost — "unseen, unheard, but always felt". He remarked that even Kharge whispers its name, indirectly admitting he's not in control.

BJP spokesperson Shehzad Poonawala echoed the sentiment, asserting that the Congress president holds no real value, and that only the Gandhi family takes key decisions.

While Kharge had earlier said it is the Congress high command that decides on state leadership matters like the Karnataka CM post, he did not clarify who comprises this authority.

The Congress Working Committee (CWC) is the party's highest decision-making body. It includes Kharge himself, Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, and several senior leaders such as KC Venugopal, Jairam Ramesh, P Chidambaram, Shashi Tharoor and Sachin Pilot. However, critics argue that real influence remains concentrated within the Gandhi family.

Leader threatens suicide if 'outsider' replaces Vijayendra

Senior BJP leader Thotadappa Basavaraju on Monday said he would set himself ablaze in front of the party office in Bengaluru if the High Command replaced current State party chief BY Vijayendra with an outsider. Basavaraju said, "Let the High Command make senior leader Sreeramulu as the State unit chief on a seniority basis, but not an outsider," he said. *—Salar News with Agencies*

Medical Edu Head's tenure extended by 6 months

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

The Karnataka government on Monday extended the tenure of Dr BL Sujatha Rathod, Director of Medical Education, by six months. Dr Rathod was due to retire upon reaching the age of superannuation on Monday. However, according to a government order, she will continue in her current role on a contractual basis. . Sujatha Rathod is an Ophthalmologist practicing in Bengaluru, specialising in eye care. She The decision comes in light of ongoing priorities in the state's medical education sector and aims to ensure continuity in leadership during a critical phase. *—Salar News*

Live-in partner killed City woman, dumped her in garbage truck

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

A day after the body of a 40-year-old woman was found dumped in a garbage truck, her live-in partner was arrested for her murder.

On Sunday, locals discovered Asha's body stuffed in a sack in the truck and alerted the Chennammanakere Achukattu police station.

Asha and her live-in partner, 33-year-old Mohammed Shamshuddin lived in a rented house in Hulimavu and were employed as housekeeping staff at a private company. Though the duo had been living together for a few months and introduced themselves as "husband and wife," no documentation proving it has been found.

On the fateful day, Asha returned home in an inebriated state, leading to a heated argument between the couple. After the altercation turned physical, Shamshuddin allegedly suffocated her to death and carried her body for over 20kms in his bike to dump it.

He was arrested based on CCTV footage from the area, in which he is seen dumping the sack in the truck before fleeing the scene. Subsequently, the accused was taken into custody, and a case of murder and destruction of evidence have been registered. Asha was a widow with two kids and the accused is a divorcee with two kids. *—PTI*

'Prada copying Kolhapuris sidelines artisans'

BENGALURU, 30 JUNE

State Minister Priyank Kharge has drawn attention to the heritage of Kolhapuri chappals following criticisms of Italian luxury brand Prada for selling footwear similar to the traditional Karnataka creation at an exorbitant price of Rs 1.2 lakh per pair.

In a statement on 'X', Kharge highlighted the artisans from regions such as Athani, Nippani, Chikkodi, Raibag, and other areas in Belagavi, Bagalkot, and Dharwad, who have been crafting these iconic chappals for generations. He emphasised the importance of recognising their contributions, noting that Kolhapur had become synonymous with these traditional sandals, although their roots are firmly planted in Karnataka.

Reflecting on his tenure as Social Welfare Minister, Kharge recounted how the state had successfully contested Maharashtra's claim for sole geographical indication (GI) rights for Kolhapuri chappals. A collaborative effort led to a joint GI tag for four districts from both states, underscoring their shared cultural heritage.

Kharge expressed that the Prada incident serves as a reminder that legal recognition alone is insufficient. He called for investments in cultural entrepreneurship, including skill development, branding, and design innovation.

"Artisans deserve not only recognition but better compensation and opportunities for sustainable livelihoods," he asserted, urging that such designs should celebrate the legacy of the creators rather than overlook them.

"The GI tag provides legal rights; it is our duty to ensure they receive global visibility." *—PTI*

Artisans from Athani, Nippani, Chikkodi and Raibag have been crafting these iconic chappals for generations. **PHOTO: PTI**

- Prada is selling Kolhapuris for Rs 1.2 lakh per pair, violating the geographical indication (GI)tag. GI tag certifies how a product originates from a specific area and possesses qualities or a reputation because of that origin. Governments are expected to monitor and initiate legal action against misuse.

THE FIGHT FOR LAND

Leader of Opposition in the Legislative Council, Chalavadi Narayanaswamy, and others protest on Monday in front of the Gandhi statue at Vidhana Soudha against the State government's alleged forceful acquisition of 1,777 acres of farm land across 13 villages in rural Bengaluru. The land is being acquired by Karnataka Industrial Area Development Board, with the Cabinet set to discuss the issue on 2 July **PHOTO: MOHAMMED ASAD**

Family of four dies in accident near Kunigal

TUMAKURU, 30 JUNE

A family of four, including a 13-year-old boy, lost their lives following a head-on collision with a speeding mini truck on the bypass near Kunigal on Sunday evening, police have reported.

The victims have been identified as Seebe Gowda, 50, his wife Shobha, 45, their daughter Dumbishree, 23, and son Bhanukiran, 13. The family was returning from dinner and was en route to drop Bhanukiran, a Class 8 student at Valley School, to his hostel near Bidanagere.

The accident occurred around 8pm when their car was struck by a Canter truck that was travelling the wrong way on a one-way road. According to police, both vehicles were speeding at the time of the impact, which was so severe that all four family members were killed instantly.

The driver of the mini truck has been arrested and charged under relevant sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. Authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding this devastating incident. *—PTI*

The accident occurred when the car was struck by a Canter truck that was travelling the wrong way on a one-way road **PHOTO: PTI**

'NO TO SMART METERS'

Farmers plan stir over neglect towards Kabini, delay in bagina

MYSURU, 30 JUNE

The district unit members of Karnataka State Sugarcane Growers Association (KSSGA) on Monday decided to organise a massive protest against the State government, condemning its reluctance to offer "bagina" to Kabini Reservoir and its move to install smart meters while providing new power connections.

Addressing members gathered at the Gun House Circle in the city on Monday, KSSGA chief Hallikerehundi Bhagyaraj criticised Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar for not offering the traditional "bagina" to Kabini Reservoir, despite the dam brimming early this year, even before the KRS reservoir.

Bhagyaraj said, "The State government shows haste to release water from Kabini Reservoir whenever it releases water to Tamil Nadu on court directions, but the CM has not shown same enthusiasm in offering 'bagina' to Kabini. This shows the government's neglect towards farmers who grow crops using water from Kabini Reservoir." He also urged the government to withdraw its decision to install smart meters while providing new power connections, including those for irrigation pump sets. The protesters also appealed to State government and the district administration to save sugarcane farmers from the injustices they face at sugar mills, increase the fair remunerative price per tonne to Rs 4000 this season and clear the arrears of Rs 950 crore pending for two years. *—Salar News*

CM Siddaramaiah with Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar offers bagina to the Cauvery river at KRS dam in Mandya on Monday **PHOTO: SALAR**

SIDDARAMAIAH BECOMES 1ST CM TO OFFER BAGINA TO KRS IN JUNE

MYSURU, 30 JUNE

Chief Minister (CM) Siddaramaiah on Monday offered the traditional bagina to the Cauvery River at the Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) dam in Mandya district, becoming the first CM to do so in June — an occurrence last recorded 84 years ago.

Thanks to copious rainfall in the Cauvery basin and neighbouring Kerala, the KRS dam reached its full level of 124.8 feet on 29 June, marking the earliest such occurrence since 1960.

Siddaramaiah was accompanied by Deputy CM DK Shivakumar, Mandya District Minister N Chaluvarayaswamy, Social Welfare Minister HC Mahadevappa, and MLAs Tanveer Sait, Ramesh Bandisiddegowda, D Ravishankar, and Harishgowda.

The ritual involved offering bagina — bamboo baskets containing coconut, jaggery, turmeric, betel, grains, and other items. A total of 40 baginas were prepared by a team of priests led by scholar Bhanuprakash Sharma. Special homas and pujas were also conducted near the Cauvery idol. *—Salar News*

> **The government has cleared grants worth Rs 2,000 crore for Cauvery basin areas including Rs 1,000 crore for Mandya district. In just two years, our government has enhanced the Cauvery basin area. I appeal to all those who are opposing Cauvery aarti not to oppose it for the sake of opposing it**
>
> -DK Shivakumar, Deputy Chief Minister

Belagavi: Rama Sene workers tied to tree, beaten

BELAGAVI, 30 JUNE

Five Sri Rama Sene activists were tied to a tree and beaten with sticks by a group of villagers in Ingali, Hukkeri taluk, on Saturday evening. The activists claimed they were assaulted for trying to stop alleged illegal cow transport, but locals asserted the violence was in response to the activists' misbehaviour with a woman from their community.

Belagavi Superintendent of Police Bhimashankar Guled said that though no complaints were filed, police registered a suo motu case after a video of the assault went viral on social media. The footage showed the five tied to a coconut tree and beaten by a mob of about a dozen men.

Initial investigations revealed the incident was not related to cow transport. SP Guled clarified the attackers were from multiple communities in Ingali village, refuting social media claims of communal targeting.

Earlier, the activists had intercepted a vehicle transporting cows owned by Babasab Ramzan Multani, who had valid documents for dairy farming. Although police initially impounded the cows, they were returned after verification.

The activists later allegedly pursued the vehicle again, leading to the confrontation and subsequent assault. Hukkeri MLA Nikhil Katti called the assault "inhuman" and condemned the act. *—Salar News*

PHOTO: ANI

Achuthanandan still in critical stage, says doctors

T'PURAM, 30 JUNE

The health condition of former Kerala Chief Minister VS Achuthanandan continues to be critical, as his blood pressure and kidney function are yet to become normal, doctors attending to him at a private hospital in the state capital said on Monday. According to the latest medical bulletin issued by the hospital, the veteran Marxist leader is responding to medication. However, his blood pressure and kidney function are still not stable, it said. The 101-year-old was admitted to the hospital last week and is being treated in the intensive care unit by a team of specialists. His health parameters are being closely monitored, sources added. Achuthanandan has been battling age-related health issues in recent years and has withdrawn from public life —*PTI*

Forces gun down two armed Maoists in Odisha

BHUBANESWAR, 30 JUNE

Two Maoists were gunned down by Odisha Police in Kandhamal district on Monday, and arms and ammunition were seized from their camp, a police statement said. The deceased have been identified as Manku, an Area Committee Member, and Chandan, a party member. The arms and ammunitions recovered from the spot included a rifle, several revolvers, cartridges and walkie-talkie sets, statement said. "Today around noon, there was a gunfight between DVF jawans and Naxalites. Manku and Chandan were killed in an exchange of gunfire," the statement said. Odisha DGP YB Khurania congratulated Kandhamal Superintendent of Police Harisha BC and members of the DVF for the successful operation. —*PTI*

SC stalls arrest of MLA Moorthy in kidnapping case

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Supreme Court on Monday granted interim protection from arrest to MLA M Jagan Moorthy, who apprehended arrest in an alleged case of kidnapping of a boy. Moorthy is the President of Puratchi Bharatham party, an ally of AIADMK and MLA representing KV Kuppam assembly constituency. A bench of Justices Manoj Misra and N Kotiswar Singh issued notice to Tamil Nadu Police on an appeal filed by MLA. "If the petitioner is arrested in connection with FIR filed at PS - Thiruvalangadu, he shall be released on personal bond of Rs 25,000 subject to undertaking that he shall cooperate in the investigation and will not threaten the witnesses or tamper evidence," bench said.—*PTI*

Five petitioners urge SC to restore J&K statehood

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Five petitioners, including a former Union Home Secretary, retired defence officers and a government-appointed interlocutor, have written an open letter to Chief Justice of India BR Gavai, urging the Supreme Court to take suo moto cognizance of what they call the continuing delay in restoring statehood to Jammu and Kashmir. Citing assurances made by the Union Government, parliamentary statements and the Supreme Court's observations in the 2023 verdict, the signatories expressed concern that the prolonged Union Territory status, imposed in 2019, violates the Constitution's basic structure doctrine and sets a dangerous precedent for Indian federalism. The petitioners have appealed to the top court to constitute a bench to hear the petitions and set an early deadline for its restoration.—*ANI*

T'gana BJP's firebrand MLA Raja quits over chief's chair

Singh says BJP is ignoring efforts of many capable leaders

HYDERABAD, 30 JUNE

- Singh said the decision to appoint the new head of the party in the state has come as a shock and disappointment, not just to him, but to lakhs of Karyakartas, leaders, and voters who have stood by the party through every high and low.

Upset over the possible appointment of Ramchander Rao as BJP's Telangana President, the party's firebrand MLA Raja Singh on Monday wrote to Union Minister G Kishan Reddy saying that he is resigning from the primary membership of the saffron party.

Reddy is presently the state Chief and the party high command is likely to announce new successor on Tuesday.

Singh said the decision to appoint the new head of the party in the state has come as a shock and disappointment, not just to him, but to lakhs of Karyakartas, leaders, and voters who have stood by the party through every high and low.

"With great sadness, I have decided to resign from the primary membership of the Bharatiya Janata Party. I request you, Shri Kishan Reddy ji, to kindly inform the Hon'ble Speaker of the Telangana Legislative Assembly that T Raja Singh is no longer a member of the BJP," he said in the letter.

Raja Singh PHOTO: PTI

There are many capable senior leaders, MLAs, and MPs within Telangana who have tirelessly worked for the growth of BJP and who have the strength, credibility, and connections to lead the party forward.

Unfortunately, it appears that some individuals, driven by personal interests, have misled the central leadership and taken decisions by running the show from behind the curtain, he alleged.

"This not only undermines the sacrifices of grassroots workers but risks pushing the party into avoidable setbacks," he said.

He said he has been a dedicated Karyakarta, elected three times in a row with the blessings of the people and support of the party.

Though he may be stepping away from the party, the Goshamahal legislator said he remains fully committed to the ideology of Hindutva and the service of Hindu Dharma and the people of his constituency. – *PTI*

J&K: Captured Pak national identified as terrorist guide

RAJOURI, 30 JUNE

A Pakistani national attempting to infiltrate into India along the Line of Control (LoC) was apprehended by Indian Army troops on Sunday. Mohammed Arif, a resident of Datote village in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK), is believed to be a terrorist guide leading a group of four Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) terrorists into Indian territory.

Reports indicate that Arif was captured by vigilant troops from the Army's Ace of Spades division at the forward Hajura post in the Gambhir area. The four terrorists accompanying him jumped off a steep cliff upon noticing the Indian Army's presence and managed to return to the Pakistani side, reportedly sustaining injuries from the fall.

Mohammed Arif PHOTO: X

Army personnel, maintaining an aggressive surveillance posture in the difficult terrain, noticed suspicious movements of the group, which was attempting to exploit the dense foliage and rugged landscape to infiltrate. Due to concerns for civilian safety and proximity of Pakistani military posts, troops refrained from opening fire.

Arif, in his late 20s, was found in possession of a mobile phone and around Rs 20,000 in Pakistani currency. During interrogation, he claimed to have extensive knowledge of the area, working under the direction of the Pakistani army to assist in terrorist infiltration.

Officials have stated that Arif is undergoing detailed interrogation, with crucial intelligence expected to bolster counter-infiltration efforts. This operation exemplifies the Indian Army's commitment to safeguarding national borders and countering threats to peace and stability in the region. —*PTI*

5 held after vehicle enters Pinarayi's convoy

KOZHIKODE, 30 JUNE

Five men were arrested after their vehicle entered the convoy of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, police said here on Monday.

The incident allegedly occurred around 10.15pm on Sunday near Elathur, as the Chief Minister was on his way to the government guest house. Police also seized a walkie-talkie from the vehicle, which did not have a number plate. According to police, the pickup van entered the high-security convoy despite being warned three times to stay away. Officers stopped the vehicle at West Hill Chungam and detained all five men inside.

The men were later released on station bail. —*PTI*

Electoral roll a dynamic list, needs review: EC

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Election Commission has asserted the necessity of a special intensive revision of electoral rolls in Bihar, citing the ever-changing nature of the voter list due to factors such as deaths, migration, and the addition of new voters aged 18 and above. This statement comes amidst protests from various opposition parties that claim the process could lead to the deliberate exclusion of voters through misuse of state machinery.

In its announcement, the Commission emphasised that Article 326 of the Constitution mandates only eligible Indian citizens, residing in the relevant constituency and aged 18 or over, may be registered as voters. To aid the special revision, the 2003 electoral roll for Bihar, which lists approximately 4.96 crore electors, has been made accessible on the Commission's website to facilitate inquiries.

Voters listed in the 2003 rolls can verify their details and submit enumeration forms with minimal documentation, enhancing the efficiency of the process. The Commission has reiterated that the revision of electoral rolls is obligatory prior to every election, in line with the Representation of the People Act 1950 and associated regulations, and has been diligently conducting such reviews for 75 years. —*PTI*

Namazwaad: BJP slams RJD's Tejashwi for stand on Waqf

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) has launched a scathing attack on opposition parties, accusing them of attempting to transform the Constitution into a "sharia script". Party spokesperson Sudhanshu Trivedi condemned RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav's statement suggesting the amended Waqf Act would be discarded if the opposition alliance assumes power in Bihar.

Trivedi claimed the INDIA bloc, comprising RJD, Congress, and Left parties in Bihar, shows blatant disrespect for the Constitution and the judiciary, emphasising that the Waqf Act was passed by Parliament and is under Supreme Court review. He labelled opposition criticisms of the Election Commission's review of electoral rolls as the result of a "defeatist mindset", asserting that ensuring only eligible voters participate in elections is imperative.

He accused the INDIA alliance of pursuing vote bank politics, particularly targeting Muslim voters, while seeking to undermine the institution of the Constitution established by BR Ambedkar.

Rashtriya Janata Dal leader Tejashwi Yadav PHOTO: PTI

"These parties are not upholding the values of socialism; they are instead aligning themselves with a few self-appointed religious leaders," Trivedi alleged.

The BJP maintains its commitment to safeguarding constitutional values, stating it will not permit any modifications that would align the Constitution with religious doctrines.

He reiterated that their goal is to maintain democracy & fairness in electoral processes, criticising opposition's stance as a disconnection from public welfare and constitutional integrity. —*PTI*

50 supporters of MP Azad held for vandalism

PRAYAGRAJ, 30 JUNE

Around 50 supporters of Nagina MP Chandrashekhar Azad have been arrested following an incident of vandalism on Sunday. Frustration escalated among his supporters when police prevented the MP from meeting the family of Devishankar, who had succumbed to burn injuries on 13 April, at Isota village.

Chandrashekhar arrived at the Circuit House but was halted by law enforcement citing "security reasons." His supporters, upon hearing that he would not be allowed to visit, reacted by creating chaos in the area and causing damage to two police vehicles.

Yamuna Nagar Deputy Commissioner of Police, Vivek Chandra Yadav, stated that 50 individuals involved in stone pelting and vandalism have already been apprehended, with efforts ongoing to identify additional suspects. DCP Yadav noted that a large crowd had gathered following rumours about Chandrashekhar's visit.

The agitation erupted as emotions ran high, leading to the destruction of a dial 112 vehicle among other property. —*PTI*

JAISHANKAR AT UN

First-ever Quad-at-sea mission launched

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

In a move to enhance maritime security and interoperability in the Indo-Pacific, the coast guards of India, Japan, the United States, and Australia have launched the first-ever "Quad-at-Sea" observer mission.

This initiative, agreed upon during the Quad Leaders' Summit in Wilmington in September 2024, marks a significant operational step under the Wilmington Declaration. Two officers, including women officers, from each country have embarked on board US Coast Guard Cutter Stratton, currently en route to Guam. The Indian Defence Ministry highlighted the mission as a "cross-embarkation" effort to strengthen joint readiness, coordination, and domain awareness, reinforcing the commitment to a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar PHOTO: PTI

The Quad leaders had outlined several ambitious initiatives during the September summit, covering maritime security, infrastructure, emerging technologies, and humanitarian assistance. A key outcome was the decision to initiate joint coast guard operations under this new observer mission, with more such missions planned across the region.

India's participation aligns with its strategic Security and Growth for All in the Region vision and complements efforts under the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), launched by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2019.

- EAM S Jaishankar will visit the US from 30 June to 2 July for a Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio.

Meanwhile, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar will visit US from 30 June to 2 July for a Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, hosted by US Secretary of State Marco Rubio. Scheduled for 1 July, the meeting will focus on advancing proposals for a free and open Indo-Pacific.

Jaishankar will also inaugurate the exhibition The Human Cost of Terrorism at the UN. —*PTI*

3 LANGUAGE RULE

Aaditya slams govt for withdrawing order on Hindi

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Aaditya Thackeray, MLA from Shiv Sena (UBT), has accused the Maharashtra government of withdrawing its decision to introduce Hindi as a compulsory third language in primary schools due to 'pressure' from the opposition and civil society. Thackeray led a symbolic protest outside the Vidhan Bhavan, holding placards that read "Mi Marathi" (I am Marathi), asserting that "pressure triumphed over power."

The state cabinet's decision yesterday came amid significant backlash against the proposed language policy, leading Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis to announce the formation of a committee headed by educationist Narendra Jadhav to explore the way forward on language issues. He stated, "The government had to retract its resolutions due to popular opposition," and vowed to maintain pressure until formal decision is made.

Meanwhile, Raj Thackeray also spoke out against the imposition of Hindi, arguing that while it is widely spoken, it should not be forced upon states, especially when Marathi has a far richer historical background.

Aaditya Thackeray PHOTO: PTI

In response, former CM Uddhav Thackeray declared that withdrawal was intended to avoid a united protest against government. He emphasised importance of maintaining unity among Marathi supporters, suggesting that planned celebrations would take place on 5 July, to acknowledge this victory.

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis on Monday said a committee will decide whether a third language, should be introduced from Class I in state schools and asserted the decision will taken keeping in mind interest of students and not under political pressure. —*PTI*

BILL PROTECTING GIG WORKERS TO BE INTRODUCED IN TELANGANA

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Congress on Monday said the Telangana government is set to introduce a legislation to protect the 4.2 lakh gig workers in the state, and asserted that "Shramik Nyay" continues to be one of its most central visions.

Congress General Secretary in-charge of communications Jairam Ramesh pointed out that Telangana is the third state to legislate on this matter, following Rajasthan and Karnataka. In each case, it is only Congress governments that have secured justice and fair working conditions for lakhs of gig workers, he said in a post on X.

Highlighting the key provisions of the bill, he said it entails mandatory registration of gig workers by aggregators and a tripartite board comprising workers, aggregators, and the government to monitor gig worker welfare.

The bill also entails setting up a welfare fund for gig workers to be administered by tripartite board, he said. —*PTI*

Temple guard's death sparks call for Stalin's resignation

CHENNAI, 30 JUNE

The death of 27-year-old B **Ajith Kumar**, a temple security guard, following police questioning in Tamil Nadu's Sivaganga district, has sparked a political uproar. Opposition leaders are calling for a judicial inquiry, the arrest of involved police personnel, and the resignation of Chief Minister MK Stalin.

Ajith, employed as a temporary guard at Madapuram Badrakaliamman Temple, was initially questioned after a complaint of gold theft involving a devotee, who alleged that 9.5 sovereigns of gold went missing from her car. Despite being released briefly, he was re detained, during which he reportedly expressed discomfort. He was taken to hospital, where he was pronounced dead. His family alleges he was tortured while in custody.

In response, six police personnel were suspended, and an inquest has been initiated by the local magistrate. Residents and AIADMK party members protested, demanding justice for Ajith's family.

AIADMK leader Edappadi K Palaniswami and BJP state President Nainar Nagenthran echoed calls for accountability, highlighting a disturbing trend of police brutality. PMK leader Anbumani Ramadoss directly challenged Chief Minister Stalin, referencing past custodial deaths and urging his resignation as well. – *Agencies*

Hills crumble, homes submerge in North

Road caves in Chandigarh; NH blocked in Himachal; red alert in many Uttarakhand districts

CHANDIGARH/ SHIMLA/ BHUBANESWAR/ JAMSHEDPUR, 30 JUNE

Several parts of Punjab and Haryana received rainfall on Monday, with a road caving in in Chandigarh, which received 70.5 mm rainfall.

Rains caused a portion of a road to cave in near Sector 47-48 traffic signal point, where a motorcyclist had a narrow escape.

Authorities later barricaded the collapsed portion of the road and launched repair work.

Meanwhile, in Haryana, Yamunanagar, Hisar, Ambala, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Sirsa, Panchkula and Karnal received rain.

Rain lashed Punjab's Ludhiana, Patiala, Pathankot, Bathinda, Mohali, Gurdaspur and Ferozepur. More rains have been forecast in the two states until 1 July.

Three people died in a road accident near Jalog in Himachal Pradesh's Shimla, amid continuous heavy rains on Monday.

A five-storey building collapsed in Bhattakufer in the city's subuon Monday morning, while several cows were washed away in Rampur. No one was injured as the building was evacuated earlier.

Several roads, including the four-lane Shimla-Chandigarh national highway was bocked due to landslides.

An orange alert was issued in Una, Bilaspur, Kangra, Mandi, Sirmaur, Solan districts, Hamirpur, Shimla and Kullu districts.

The swollen Beas river following heavy rains in Mandi in Himachal Pradesh on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

A red alert was issued in several Uttarakhand districts, including Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar and Nainital.

With major rivers in north Odisha in spate, the state government has started evacuating people from low-lying areas and launched rescue operations in Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts.

A red alert was sounded in the two districts. Four blocks in Balasore — Baliapal, Bhograi, Jaleswar, and Basta — are likely to be affected.

The Indian Meteorological Department forecast more rain across the state till 5 July.

Normal life in Jharkhand's Kolhan region, comprising East and West Singhbhum and Seraikela-Kharswan districts, was badly affected on Monday due to water-logging in various areas.

Kharkhai and Subarnarekha rivers were on a spate and people living in the catchment areas were asked to remain alert.

Officials were asked to be prepared for any exigency after water was released from the Rairangpur dam. —*PTI*

Five injured in 9-vehicle pile-up on Hyderabad ORR

HYDERABAD, 30 JUNE

At least five persons were injured after nine cars collided with each other on the outskirts of Hyderabad city on Monday morning. The incident took place on the Outer Ring Road near Rajendranagar. Sources said the accident took place when a speeding car which suddenly applied breaks. This led to the car that was behind it ramming into the first car, triggering the pile-up. A total of nine vehicles were involved in the accident. Total five passengers in the crashed cars reportedly suffered injuries in the accident. They have been shifted to the nearby hospital for treatment. The accident also caused a traffic blockade on the ORR, bringing vehicles to a standstill for at least two kilometres. Police said they have registered a case and began an investigation into the cause of the accident. —*Agencies*

337T MP Union Carbide factory waste burnt

INDORE, 30 JUNE

337 tonnes of toxic waste from the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal have been incinerated at a disposal plant in Pithampur. This comes nearly six months after the hazardous material, comprising soil and chemical residues, was transported for disposal under Madhya Pradesh High Court's directives. The incineration process began on 5 May and was completed on 30 June, following rigorous supervision from both the Central and State Pollution Control Boards. Emission remained within safe limits throughout the operation. The residual ash was stored in leak-proof containers, with plans for scientific burial set to begin by November, ensuring environmental safety. The 1984 Bhopal gas disaster killed thousands —*PTI*

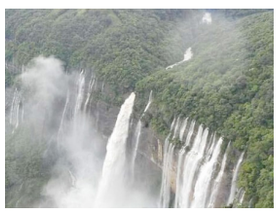


PHOTO: WIKIPEDIA

Post murder, M'laya makes guides a must for tourists

SHILLONG, 30 JUNE

Authorities in Meghalaya have made it compulsory for visitors to hire guides while participating in outdoor activities within the East Khasi Hills district. The orders came a month after Indore businessman Raja Raghuvanshi was murdered on the plans of his wife during his honeymoon in the state's Sohra. The order would be strictly enforced, and violators may face penalties or be denied access to trekking routes. The administration also plans to deploy more trained guides and work with local communities to implement the directive effectively. The tourism department has emphasised the need for better safety measures to protect the region's reputation as a safe and serene tourist destination.—*PTI*

Protests in J'khand ahead of Hul Diwas celebrations

RANCHI, 30 JUNE

The police on Monday fired tear gas shells and baton-charged a group of people protesting the dismantling of a stage allegedly by Jharkhand's Sahibganj district authorities ahead of a function to mark 'Hul Diwas' (Rebellion Day) in Bhognadih. Hul Diwas commemorates the Santhal rebellion against British rule and local landlords. People led by the Sido-Kanhu Murmu Hul Foundation and Aato Manjhi Vashi Bhognadih protested the dismantling of a separate stage they had set up to commemorate Hul Diwas. Police had to mildly lathicharge and use tear gas shells as some villagers attacked them with bows and arrows. The protestors also clashed with the police at the Sido-Kanhu Bhognadih Park.—*PTI*

Thousands of devotees take part in the annual Rath Yatra in Puri, Odisha, on Monday **PHOTO: PTI**

Day after stampede, thousands throng Puri for deities' darshan

PURI, 30 JUNE

A day after three people were killed and 50 others injured in a stampede near Shree Gundicha temple in Puri, thousands of devotees on Monday made a beeline to have a darshan of the sibling deities, Lord Balabhadra, Devi Subhadra and Lord Jagannath.

Barricades were erected in front of the Shree Gundicha temple and different queues made for having a smooth darshan of the deities at Adapa Mandap inside the temple.

Mangal Aarti was performed at 7.40 am on Monday amidst thousands of devoteese. The Lords will be offered 'Adapa Mandap Prasad', the cooked 'prasad' after almost 20 days.

"We are alert... by the grace of the Lord, everything is running smoothly. Devotees are entering the Shree Gundicha Temple without any hassle," IPS officer Soumendra Priyadarshi, assigned the task of overseeing the police arrangement during Rath Yatra by Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi after the stampede.

Devotees believe they can wash away their sins if they have a darshan of Lord Jagannath. The doors will remain closed for the devotees from 9pm to 2am during which a ritual called 'Banakalagi', cleaning and adorning of the deities with facial decoration, will be conducted.

Majhi undertook a massive administrative overhaul to the remaining rituals of Rath Yatra are conducted smoothly.

After staying in Shree Gundicha temple till 5 July, the deities will return to Shree Jagannath Temple with Bahuda Yatra. —*PTI*

SC REJECTS PLEA AGAINST BODH GAYA TEMPLE ACT

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Supreme Court on Monday refused to entertain a plea challenging the Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949, and asked the petitioner to approach the high court concerned.

The Mahabodhi temple complex in Bihar's Bodh Gaya, a UNESCO World Heritage site, is one of the four holy areas related to the life of Lord Gautam Buddha. Bodh Gaya is the place where Lord Buddha is believed to have attained enlightenment.

The plea came up for hearing before a bench of Justices MM Sundresh and K Vinod Chandran.

"I (the petitioner) have prayed that the Bodh Gaya Temple Act should be annulled as ultra vires," the counsel said.

The bench said the petitioner should approach the concerned high court. "We are not inclined to entertain the petition under Article 32 of the Constitution of India. However, liberty is given to the petitioner to approach the high court," the bench said. —*PTI*

KOLKATA COLLEGE

BJP 'fact-finding team' visit triggers violence amid student groups

KOLKATA, 30 JUNE

Supporters of the BJP and its youth wing, BJYM, on Monday scuffled with workers of the Left and their allied organisations outside South Calcutta Law College as a four-member fact-finding team of the saffron party visited the premises where the alleged gangrape of a student took place on 25 June.

Police had a tough time controlling the scuffling groups, who had gathered there to protest against the incident.

The BJP and its youth and students' wings on Monday took out protest rallies in various parts of West Bengal, including Kolakata, Siliguri and Balurghat.

The CPI(M)'s students' wing SFI also held a protest rally at College Street in front of the Calcutta University's main campus.

ABVP supports held protests in front of South Calcutta Law College and Kasba Police Station.

Following the survivor's complaint, the police arrested prime accused alumnus Manojit Mishra, along with students Promit Mukherjee and Zaid Ahmed. A guard of the college was also apprehended. —*PTI*

Police had a tough time controlling the crowd **PHOTO: ANI**

Jariwala death: Cops suspect drug on empty stomach

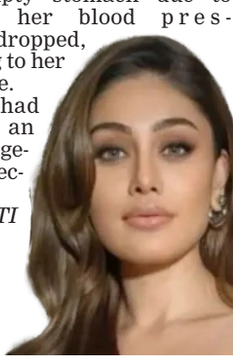
MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Actor Shefali Jariwala, who passed away on the night of June 27, was taking different types of medicines, including anti-ageing tablets, and her blood pressure had dropped possibly from consuming these on an empty stomach before she was rushed to hospital, police officials said.

Jariwala , 42, who shot to fame with her breakout appearance in the remix track 'Kaanta Laga' and also appeared on several reality shows, was rushed to Bellevue Multispeciality Hospital in Andheri by her actor husband Parag Tyagi on 27 June, where doctors declared her dead on arrival. Her body was sent for autopsy to Cooper Hospital.

She had been fasting and consuming various medicines on an empty stomach due to which her blood pressure dropped, leading to her collapse.

She had taken an anti- ageing injection. —*PTI*



Lalit Modi's plea to shift ED penalty on BCCI junked

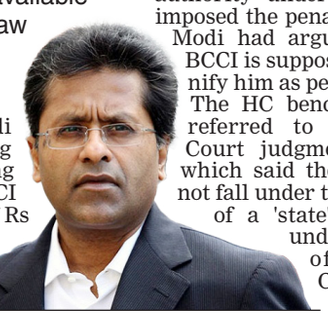
NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The Supreme Court on Monday junked a plea filed by former cricket administrator Lalit Modi, seeking an order to the BCCI to pay a penalty of Rs 10.65 crore imposed on him by the ED for violating the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA).

A bench of Justices P S Narasimha and R Mahadevan, however, said Modi will be entitled to avail civil remedies as available according to law.

The Bombay High Court on 19 December imposed a cost of Rs 1 lakh on Modi while dismissing his petition seeking an order to the BCCI to pay a penalty of Rs 10.65 crore fine ED imposed on him.

- SC said Modi will be entitled to avail civil remedies as available according to law



The HC had said the petition was "frivolous and wholly misconceived" as the adjudication authority under FEMA has imposed the penalty on Modi.

Modi had argued that the BCCI is supposed to indemnify him as per the bylaws.

The HC bench, however, referred to a Supreme Court judgment of 2005, which said the BCCI does not fall under the definition of a 'state' as defined under Article 12 of the Constitution. —*PTI*

EERIE REPEAT OF TRAGEDY

Toddler falls into chhole pot 2yrs after her sister fell into dal pot

SONBHADRA, 30 JUNE

Tragedy repeated itself in a family here, eerily in a similar manner, after two years and claimed the life of a girl child on each occasion.

Shailendra, hailing from Jhansi, and his wife, who run a roadside stall selling street food in the Duddhi bazaar area of Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, lost their one-and-a-half-year-old girl after she accidentally fell into a boiling pot of chickpeas at their home.

This incident is strangely similar to the that struck the family two years ago when the couple lost their elder daughter, after she had fallen into a hot cooking vessel.

The mishap occurred on 27 Jun when Shailendra was preparing chickpeas in a pot for his food stall. While he and his wife were engaged in other tasks, their toddler daughter, Priya, who was playing near the utensil, accidentally fell into the hot pot.

The child was rushed to the Duddhi Community Health Centre, where doctors referred her to the district hospital for further treatment.

Despite medical efforts, the child succumbed to her injuries on the same day.

Shailendra buried her daughter the next day near the banks of the Kanhar River in Duddhi.

- Shailendra, hailing from Jhansi, and his wife, who run a roadside stall selling street food in the Duddhi bazaar area of Uttar Pradesh's Sonbhadra district, lost their one-and-a-half-year-old girl after she accidentally fell into a boiling pot of chickpeas at their home

He recalled that two years ago, his two-year-old daughter, Saumya had also died in similar circumstances after she accidentally fell into a hot pot of utensils.

That, too, was an accident, he said.

Duddhi station house officer, Manoj Singh said the incident was not initially reported to the police.

"However, upon receiving information and conducting an inquiry, it was found to be an accident," he said. —*PTI*

'Pashu' inappropriate way to mention animals: Prez

BAREILLY, 30 JUNE

President Droupadi Murmu has expressed her belief that the term "pashu," meaning animal, is "inappropriate," proposing instead the phrase "jeevan dhan," or wealth of life, to describe these creatures. Speaking at the 11th convocation ceremony of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Murmu emphasised the vital relationship between humans and animals, stating that life without them is unimaginable.

"Animals were essential as 'saadhan' (for transportation) and 'bal' (force) for farmers in the past," she remarked. The President highlighted the significance of seeing divinity in all creatures, reflecting the values of Indian culture. She also underlined the crucial role of vaccination in preventing diseases among animals, thereby contributing to overall public health.

Murmu was welcomed to Bareilly by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Governor Anandiben Patel. Adityanath extended a warm greeting to "Hon'ble President Draupadi Murmu ji in 'Nath Nagri' Bareilly" on social media.

President Droupadi Murmu **PHOTO: PTI**

- The President highlighted the significance of seeing divinity in all creatures, reflecting the values of Indian culture. She also underlined the crucial role of vaccination in preventing diseases among animals, thereby contributing to overall public health

The IVRI, located in Izatnagar, focuses on research and development in veterinary and animal sciences. —*PTI*

Ambedkar varsity drops India, adopts 'Bharat'

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The vice chancellor of Dr BR Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD), Anu Singh Lather, has said the institution is deliberately avoiding the term Indian Knowledge System in favour of the 'Bharatiya Knowledge System' as "India is a foreign word".

The university's choice of terminology reflected a deeper philosophical and historical consciousness, Lather said.

AUD approved 54 compulsory BKS courses that will be integrated across programmes in various departments.

These courses are mandatory components intended to embed indigenous knowledge frameworks into formal higher education, she said.

Every reference cited in these courses includes the original source -- the Upanishads, Mahabharata, or Arthashastra.

The curriculum includes themes like Bharatiya foundational political philosophy, Yoga and the Self, Indian aesthetics, Bhakti as Gyaan, traditional law systems, and ancient Indian science and technology. —*PTI*

FACES FROM THE PAST

Archaeologists have reconstructed the faces of at least two men from the oldest civilisations that lived during the 6th century BCE, at Keeladi in Madurai, Tamil Nadu. These skulls were are said to be of men who lived over 2,500 years ago. Madurai Kamaraj University and Liverpool John Moores University in the UK worked together to define the facial features of these men as having traces of South Indian, ancestral West Eurasian hunter-gatherers and ancestral Austro-Asiatic natives

PHOTO: PTI

The emotional aftermath of Ahmedabad air crash

A husband who refused to cry, a father insisting he didn't need a DNA test to identify his son, a crew member's family broken in spirit after waiting seven days for DNA confirmation. Two weeks after the AI-171 crash in Ahmedabad, psychiatrists are working through an emotional minefield to help families veering between denial and despair.

The five commonly known stages of grief—denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance—are playing out in ground zero of the 12 June disaster when the London-bound Air India plane crashed into the congested BJ Medical College complex seconds after takeoff, killing 241 on board and 29 on ground. Only one passenger survived.

The devastating air crash had shaken the city—and the people's lives—to the core. For many, it marked the beginning of an emotional journey more harrowing than they could have imagined.

Amid the chaos, the Department of Psychiatry at BJ Medical College here swung into immediate action.

A team of psychiatrists—five senior residents and five consultants—were deployed around the clock across the hospital's Kasauti Bhavan, the postmortem building, and the civil superintendent's office.

Their mission: to support surviving families through mental trauma of a tragedy.

"The accident was unimaginable. Even bystanders were disturbed. Then what must be the condition of someone who lost their loved one?" said Minakshi Parikh, Dean and Head of Psychiatry at BJMC.

"If the people who heard the news were so disturbed, then it is not even within our scope to imagine the state of mind of the family members of people who lost their lives," she told PTI.

With horrifying images of the crash already circulating, families poured in—numb, desperate, and clinging to threads of hope. The mention of a lone survivor sent hearts racing. Many believed—needed to believe—it could be their loved one.

The devastating air crash had shaken the city—and the people's lives—to the core. For many, it marked the beginning of an emotional journey more harrowing than they could have imagined ***PHOTO: PTI***

"There was an uncertainty whether one would be able to identify the loved ones they have lost and wait for matching of the DNA samples for three days. In some cases, samples of another relative of the kin had to be taken. The shock would have logically led to acute stress reactions and post-traumatic stress disorder," Parikh said.

"There was complete denial," recalled Dr Urvika Parekh, an assistant professor who was part of the crisis team.

A man, Parekh recalled, sat speechless, refusing to cry or talk. His wife had died in the crash.

"There was immense guilt—survivor guilt (that he is alive and his wife died). We gave him anti-anxiety medication to help ease the immediate stress. Eventually, he began to speak. He talked about their plans, their memories. It was catharsis. We didn't interrupt—we just let him speak and communicated through silence and empathy," Parekh said.

She said in such cases empathetic listening played a crucial role.

"We were managing their anger, outburst, and their questions like 'why us' (why did it have to happen to us)," she said.

For many, the most unbearable part was the wait. DNA confirmation could take up to 72 hours, sometimes longer. In the meantime, grief festered, fuelled by uncertainty. Some relatives insisted they could identify the bodies themselves.

"There was one father who kept saying he didn't need DNA tests—he could identify his son by his eyes," Parekh shared.

"We had to gently discourage that. Seeing their loved ones in such a state could trigger Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression. We told them: it's better to remember them with a smile than with charred remains."

The team worked through the five stages of grief, though rarely in a linear way.

"People cycle through these stages. Someone might accept the loss in the morning and fall back into denial by evening," said Parekh. "So we mourned with them. That was part of the therapy".

Parekh stays in one of the buildings on the residential campus where the plane crashed after take-off. Her building didn't suffer any major damage.

Sleep-deprived and broken by anticipation, many began to unravel.

One Air India crew member's family waited seven days for DNA confirmation. "The exhaustion, the helplessness—it broke her mentally," said a relative. "But the counselling helped. Those sessions were our only anchor."

"A calm voice, the right amount of information, and simply being there—these saved a lot of families from spiralling into chaos," said Parikh.

—PTI

SALAR سالار

Nations gather to combat poverty, but US pulls back

Many of the world's nations are gathering starting Monday in Spain for a high-level conference to tackle the growing gap between rich and poor nations and try to drum up trillions of dollars needed to close it.

US, previously a major contributor, pulled its participation, so finding funding will be tough.

The four-day Financing for Development meeting in the southern city of Seville is taking place as many countries face escalating debt burdens, declining investments, decreasing international aid and increasing trade barriers.

The United Nations and Spain, the conference co-hosts, believe it is an opportunity to reverse the downward spiral, close the staggering USD 4 trillion annual financing gap to promote development, bring millions of people out of poverty and help achieve the UN's wide-ranging and badly lagging Sustainable Development Goals for 2030.

UN Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed said Wednesday that despite "the headwinds" and high geopolitical tensions, there is hope the world can address one of the most important global challenges — ensuring all people have access to food, health care, education and water.

"This conference is an appeal to action," Spain's UN Ambassador Hector Gomez Hernandez said, "and we have the extraordinary opportunity to send a very strong message to defend the international community's commitment to multilateralism."

High-level delegations, including more than 70 world leaders, are expected in Seville, Mohammed said, along with several thousand others from international financial institutions, development banks, philanthropic organisations, the private sector and civil society.

At its last preparatory meeting on 17 June, the United States rejected the 38-page outcome document that had been negotiated for months by the UN's 193 member nations and announced its withdrawal from the process and from the Seville conference.

The rest of the countries then approved the document by consensus and sent it to Seville, where it is expected to be adopted by conference participants without changes. It will be known as the Seville Commitment — or Compromiso de Sevilla in Spanish.

The document says the leaders and high-level representatives have decided to launch "an ambitious package of reforms and actions to close the financing gap with urgency," saying it is now estimated at USD 4 trillion a year.

Among the proposals and actions, it calls for minimum tax revenue of 15 per cent of a country's gross domestic product to increase government resources, a tripling of lending by multilateral development banks, and scaling up private financing by providing incentives for investing in critical areas like infrastructure. It also calls for a number of reforms to help countries deal with rising debt. UN trade chief Rebeca Grynspan told a news conference Friday that "development is going backward" and the global debt crisis has worsened.

Last year, 3.3 billion people were living in countries that pay more interest on their debts than they spend on health or education — and the number will increase to 3.4 billion people this year, she said. And developing countries will pay USD 947 billion to service debts this year, up from USD 847 billion last year.

She spoke at a press conference where an expert group on debt appointed by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres presented 11 recommendations that they say can resolve the debt crisis, empower borrowing countries and create a fairer system.

While the US objected to many actions in the outcome document, American diplomat Jonathan Shrier told the 17 June meeting: "Our commitment to international cooperation and long-term economic development remains steadfast."

He said, however, that the text "crosses many of our red lines," including interfering with the governance of international financial institutions, tripling the annual lending capacity of multilateral development banks and proposals envisioning a role for the UN in the global debt architecture.

Shrier also objected to proposals on trade, tax and innovation that are not in line with US policy, as well as language on a UN framework convention on international tax cooperation.

The United States was the world's largest single funder of foreign aid. The Trump administration has dismantled its main aid agency, the US Agency for International Development, while drastically slashing foreign assistance funding, calling it wasteful and contrary to the Republican president's agenda. Other Western donors also have cut back international aid.

The UN's Mohammed said the US withdrawal from the conference was "unfortunate," stressing that "many of the recommendations you see cannot be pursued without a continuous engagement with the US."

After Seville, "we will engage again with the US and hope that we can make the case that they be part of the success of pulling millions of people out of poverty."

—PTI

US, previously a major contributor, pulled its participation, so finding funding will be tough ***PHOTO: PTI***

LETTERS

write to us at salarenglishdigital@gmail.com

Shrunk 10 yrs waiting time for BDA complaint redressal to 10 days: Haris

MOHAMMED YOUSUF

Congress MLA NA Haris, who has been representing Bengaluru's Shanthinagar constituency since 2008, is among the few legislators seen as a "walk-the-talk" public servant. Speaking to Salar News, the 59-year-old leader reflects on his 18-month tenure as BDA Chairman, development work in his constituency, and community representation

1. It's been 18 months since you took charge as BDA Chairman. What are the measures initiated by you for a makeover of the agency, which has lost the trust of those who dream of owning a site in Bengaluru?

I have been the BDA Chairman for 18 months, and buying sites in Bengaluru is not a difficult task. The BDA has given thousands of sites, and people are yet to build houses there. But there are some issues — after a layout has been formed, courts have intervened and cancelled the acquisition. This has been happening over the last 15 to 20 years, with courts cancelling acquisitions and ordering the land to be returned to the original owners. Whether the BDA is responsible or who is to be blamed is a question. In some cases, the government has taken a U-turn. Hence, I will not say the BDA is perfect.

2. How do you plan to infuse confidence in prospective buyers of BDA land, given that the courts have come down heavily on the agency for delays in acquiring land for layout formation? In February 2024, the High Court said it was time to shut down the BDA by ordinance.

Democracy has given us a good opportunity to work for the people, but in reality, it's not happening the proper way. Officials are transferred within a year or stay longer than required. As Chairman, I should have a targeted time to deliver projects. I'm happy that during the last 18 months, I've tried to clean up things and address people's problems. I monitor the complaint register, and issues are being redressed within a week or 10 days. I've reduced the 10-year waiting period for complaint resolution to 10 days.

3. Do you agree that corruption is rampant in the BDA and that no government, since the agency was set up in 1976, has been able to check it?

Digitisation of records has started in the BDA. In the next two to three months, the process will be 100 per cent complete. All files will be online.

> **If God wills, nobody can stop me from becoming a Minister. If I don't get a berth, it's not a loss for me — it's a loss for the State**
>
> -NA Haris, Shanthinagar MLA

I've implemented this with the help of Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar, who has a great vision for the BDA. Now, one does not have to visit BDA office for khata transfers, tax payments or plan sanctions.

4. Some ruling party MLAs have recently complained about no developmental works being taken up or grants being released for their constituencies. Do you face the same problem?

I'm getting sufficient funds, and a lot of good development work is happening in my constituency.

5. You've been representing Shanthinagar without a break since 2008. What were the landmark projects you initiated and completed in these 17 years?

I have got a 300-bed hospital sanctioned in Shanthinagar. Four convention centres are coming up in Jogupalya, Akkithimmanahalli and Austin Town, one of them being developed like a mini Vidhana Soudha. Three educational institutions are coming up, as education is something I work closely with. There was no government degree college in my constituency since Independence — that too has now started. I am a 24/7 person and available via WhatsApp. My constituents don't have to come meet me; their work is done through a message. When I first became an MLA, I had to visit my constituency the same night due to flooding caused by heavy rains. I work closely with Shivakumar, who is also in charge of Bengaluru and is committed to bettering the City.

6. As one of the senior Congress MLAs, what hurdles have kept you from getting a Cabinet berth?

There's no doubt I deserve a Cabinet post, especially since many of my juniors are already there. But I'm not going to make a hue and cry if I don't get it. After the elections, I told my constituents that no matter whom they voted for, I am their MLA and they can approach me for any help. Inshallah, if God wills, nobody can stop me from becoming a minister. If I don't get a berth, it's not a loss for me — it's a loss for the State.

7. What is your take on the scrapped caste census report, which seemed to hold some promise for the Muslim community as per leaked data? The report suggested reservation for Muslims should go up from 4 per cent to 8 per cent under Category IIB.

It's not just about minorities — it's about every citizen. A caste census gives clarity on population distribution, and accordingly, reservations can be fairly divided among communities. So, if the Muslim population is larger, they should automatically get higher reservations. Nobody is doing anyone a favour.

8. Is the Muslim community in Karnataka bereft of leadership?

No. All Muslim legislators in Congress are united. We've formed Muslim Legislators' Forum. Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's Political Secretary Naseer Ahmed is the President, and I'm the secretary. We're committed to uplifting downtrodden and uneducated sections of community. We've agreed not to fight each other, but instead to fight for the community. When I was young, my father used to say: "When you live only for yourself, your wife and your children, that's not life. If you can live for others, then your life has meaning."

—Salar News

Congress MLA NA Haris ***PHOTO: PTI***

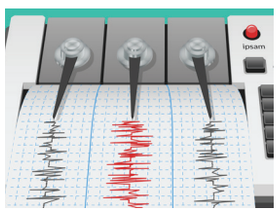


PHOTO: FREEPIK

Second quake in 24 hrs jolts Nepal's Mugu district

KATHMANDU, 30 JUNE

An earthquake of magnitude 4.3 struck Nepal's Mugu district on Monday, less than 24 hours after a previous quake hit the area. The tremor was recorded at 8.39 am in the Kotdanda area of the district, according to the National Earthquake Monitoring and Research Centre. There were no immediate reports of any damage caused by it.On Sunday, a 4.8 magnitude earthquake struck the Jima village of the district at 2.34 pm. Earthquakes are frequent in mountainous Nepal. *—PTI*

Indian faces bias at Reddit office in US over accent

UNITED STATES, 30 JUNE

An Indian working in the US recently recounted an uncomfortable office encounter on Reddit, where a senior American colleague dismissed his contributions, stating, "stop speaking in meetings" due to difficulty understanding his accent. The incident occurred during a routine update discussion, leaving the professional feeling insulted and dismissed, especially after a year of working with the same client. The post quickly gained traction, with many users expressing support and condemning the colleague's remark as unprofessional. User Vijay Vithal shared his experiences dealing with diverse accents in global teams and suggested a more constructive approach, like utilising written communication. *—PTI*

Trade talks with US resume as Canada withdraws tech tax

Amazon, Google, Meta faced 3% levy

TORONTO, 30 JUNE

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney announced Sunday that trade talks with the United States have resumed after Canada withdrew its proposed digital services tax on American tech firms. The move follows US President Donald Trump's suspension of negotiations last week, calling the tax "a direct and blatant attack on our country."

The Canadian government confirmed it would rescind the tax "in anticipation" of a trade agreement. The digital services tax, originally set to take effect on Monday, would have imposed a 3 per cent levy on revenue generated by foreign and domestic tech companies from Canadian users. This included giants like Amazon, Google, Meta, Uber, and Airbnb, and would have applied retroactively, leaving US companies facing a USD 2 billion tax bill.

Carney's office said he and Trump have now agreed to resume negotiations, aligning with the 21 July, 2025, deadline set during this month's G7 Leaders' Summit in Kananaskis, Alberta. "Today's announcement will support a resumption of negotiations," Carney said in a statement.

Mark Carney PHOTO: X

Canadian Finance Minister François-Philippe Champagne added, "Rescinding the digital services tax will allow the negotiations of a new economic and security relationship with the United States to make vital progress."

Trump had visited Canada earlier this month for the G7 summit, following Carney's visit to the White House in May. Their meetings laid the groundwork for a 30-day window to advance trade talks.

Tensions between the two nations have been high, with Trump imposing steep tariffs since beginning his second term in January. These include 50 per cent tariffs on Canadian steel and aluminium, 25 per cent on autos, and a 10 per cent import tax on most goods — subject to a rate increase on 9 July after the current 90-day negotiation period ends.

The tariffs linked to efforts to curb fentanyl smuggling also remain in place, despite protections under the 2020 US–Mexico–Canada Agreement. *—PTI*

Ukrainian pilot dies fighting largest Russian air attack

KYIV, 30 JUNE

Ukraine on Saturday night lost an F-16 aircraft and its pilot while fighting the largest barrage of Russian missiles and drones, a media report quoting the country's air force said on Sunday.

The plane was damaged after shooting down seven air targets and lost altitude, the Telegram reported, quoting the Ukrainian military.

"This night, while repelling a massive enemy air attack, a pilot of the 1st class, Lieutenant Colonel Maksym Ustimenko, born in 1993, died on an F-16 aircraft," the report quoted the military as saying in a statement.

Ukraine claimed to have intercepted 475 of 537 projectiles Russia launched against them, including Shahed drones, as well as cruise and ballistic missiles.

According to the Kyiv Independent, the sound of explosions and strikes was reported in multiple areas across the country, including in southern Mykolaiv, southeastern Zaporizhia and western Lviv.

Ihor Taburets, the governor of central Ukraine's Cherkasy region, said at least six people were injured and three multi-storey buildings and a college were damaged.

Lieutenant Colonel Maksym Ustimenko Photo: X

Officials said industrial facilities in the southern Ukrainian region of Mykolaiv and the central Dnipropetrovsk region were also attacked.

Russia's Ministry of Defence officials said its forces intercepted three Ukrainian drones Kursk and Rostov regions and in Ukraine's annexed Crimean Peninsula, while another drone killed one person in the Russian-controlled part of Ukraine's Luhansk region. *—Agencies*

Danish military likely to recruit more women

HOVELTE, 30 JUNE

Peering across a dense stretch of woodland outside of Denmark's capital with camouflage paint smeared across her face, 20-year-old Katrine scans the horizon for approaching threats.

After military training, the young soldier and the rest of her unit spent early June completing their final exercises near the Danish army's barracks in Hovelte, 25km north of Copenhagen. Katrine and other female soldiers, volunteered for military service earlier this year. Until now, that was the only way for women to be part of the armed forces.

The country wants to increase the number of young people in the military by extending compulsory enlistment to women for the first time. Men and women can both still volunteer, and the remaining places will be filled by a gender-neutral draft lottery. *—PTI*

Smoke rises from a fire near Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, where responding firefighters were shot dead on Sunday PHOTO: PTI

Idaho gunman starts blaze, then shoots 2 firefighters

COEUR D'ALENE, 30 JUNE

Authorities in western Idaho on Sunday urged residents to stay indoors because of law enforcement activity following a shooting in Kootenai County near Coeur d'Alene.

A man armed with a rifle earlier started a wildfire and then began shooting at first responders in a northern Idaho mountain community. Two firefighters were killed and a third was wounded in a gun battle that lasted for several hours, authorities said.

Governor Brad Little said on X that multiple firefighters were attacked while responding to a blaze. "This is a heinous direct assault on our brave firefighters. I ask all Idahoans to pray for them and their families as we wait to learn more," Little said.

The sheriff's office in neighbouring Soshone County said on Facebook that authorities were "dealing with an active shooter situation where the shooter is still at large". It was unclear if anyone was hurt.

An alert by the Kootenai County Emergency Management Office asked people to avoid the area around Canfield Mountain Trailhead and Nettleton Gulch Road, about 6.5km north of downtown Coeur d'Alene. No additional details were provided.

The "shelter-in-place" order was lifted Sunday night after a tactical response team used cell phone data to "hone in" on a wooded area with flames, where they found the suspect's body with a firearm nearby, Kootenai County Sheriff Bob Norris said.

"We do believe that the suspect started the fire, and we do believe that it was an ambush and it was intentional," Norris said on Sunday. *—PTI*

ISRAELI SETTLERS GO ON RAMPAGE AT WB MILITARY BASE

TEL AVIV, 30 JUNE

Dozens of Israeli settlers stormed a military base in the Israeli-occupied West Bank on Sunday night, setting fires, vandalising vehicles, and attacking soldiers. The military condemned the violence, which followed settler outrage over arrests tied to recent attacks on Palestinians.

The unrest came after settlers opened fire in Kfar Malik last week, killing three Palestinians before the army intervened. Five settlers were later arrested.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the rampage, calling it an "anarchic act" unacceptable in any civilised country. Even Far-Right Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir, known for defending extremist settlers, labelled the attack a red line.

Footage showed young religious men, often linked with the radical "hilltop youth," surrounding the base near Ramallah. Burnt equipment used for security operations was also shown.

Defence Minister Israel Katz vowed to root out settler violence, while opposition leader Yair Lapid called the rioters "Jewish terrorists" emboldened by the current government. The incident underscores the growing unrest among settlers, particularly during the Israel-Hamas conflict. With over 3 million Palestinians and 500,000 settlers in the West Bank, tensions remain high. *— Agencies*

'Enemy of God': Iranian cleric issues fatwa against Trump, Bibi

Iran's Grand Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi (C) has issued a fatwa against US President Donald Trump (L) and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu (R), branding them 'enemies of God' PHOTO: X

TEHRAN, 30 JUNE

Grand Ayatollah Makarem Shirazi, a senior Iranian cleric has issued a fatwa against US President Donald Trump and Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu. It comes days after the US President announcement of a ceasefire between Iran and Israel.

Iran's Mehr news agency reported that a group asked Shirazi what the Muslims' duties are in response to "threats" issued by Trump and Netanyahu against Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

"Any person or regime that threatens the Leader or Marja (May God forbid) is considered an enemy of God," the cleric reportedly said in the fatwa issued by him. In Shia Islam, Marja is a title given to top clerics who make legal decisions in Islamic law.

- The fatwa comes days after Trump said he knew exactly where Khamenei is being sheltered and has saved from "an ugly and ignominious death".

Shirazi warned Muslims and Islamic states that it would be "haram" to support of the enemy. "It is necessary for all Muslims around the world to make these enemies regret their words and mistakes," the fatwa said.

The fatwa comes days after Trump said he knew exactly where Khamenei is being sheltered and has saved from "an ugly and ignominious death".

A fatwa is a religious ruling issued by an Islamic scholar in response to a question on how to act in accordance with Islamic teachings It is not legally enforceable but holds weight in judicial decisions in countries with Sharia-based legal systems. *—Agencies*

RAIN-TRIGGERED INCIDENTS: PAK TOLL TOUCHES 45

ISLAMABAD, 30 JUNE

Seven people were killed in the past 24 hours in rain related incidents in Pakistan, bringing the death toll to 45, according to official data released on Monday.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in its latest update said seven more people died, including four in Balochistan, two in Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa, and one in Punjab.

It said 68 people have been injured since the pre-monsoon spell of rains began on June 26.

Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in northwest Pakistan was the worst hit with 21 casualties, according to the NDMA website.

It said another 13 people were killed in Punjab, seven in Sindh, and four died in Balochistan province.

At least 39 people have been injured in Punjab, 16 in Sindh, 11 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, and two in Balochistan, it said.

As many as 50 houses have been fully damaged and 39 partially damaged while 55 animals killed as rains wreak havoc in different parts of the country.

The NDMA said roads and bridges were also damaged due to rains.

The monsoon weather system annually brings rains in the vast Indian sub-continent region, including Pakistan.

Rain triggered floods in 2022 inundated a third of Pakistan, leaving 1,737 people dead and causing widespread destruction across the country. *—PTI*

INFECTED WITH DRAIN-FLY LARVAE, CHINA GIRL VOMITS WORMS FOR 1 MONTH

BEIJING, 30 JUNE

An eight-year-old girl has been diagnosed with a rare infection caused by drain-fly larvae after vomiting live worms for a month, local health officials reported on Monday. The child, whose identity has not been disclosed, had visited several hospitals in search of answers, expelling clusters of 1cm-long white worms during episodes of vomiting. Her father stated, "Every episode she would bring up a handful."

Pediatric specialist Zhang Bingbing from the Children's Hospital of Soochow University sent the larvae samples to the Yangzhou Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), where technicians soon identified them as drain-fly larvae. CDC department head Lu Xiaofeng explained that the larvae likely entered the girl's system through contaminated water, possibly from micro-splashes while brushing her teeth or aerosol droplets during toilet flushing.

Although drain flies are common in Southern China's humid summers, human ingestion is rare; the CDC has only documented one similar case involving a 60-year-old woman. The child has been prescribed anti-parasitic medication and advised on plumbing hygiene. She is reportedly recovering well, with no further vomiting since treatment commenced. Public health officials have urged residents to maintain dry kitchens and bathrooms, regularly clean drains, and use boiled or filtered water for oral hygiene to avoid similar infections. *—Agencies*

Agitation for early polls: Arrests flare up protests

People wave their mobile phones with flashing lights at an anti-government rally in Belgrade, Serbia, on Saturday PHOTO: PTI

BELGRADE, 30 JUNE

Thousands of demonstrators in Serbia took to the streets on Sunday, erecting blockades in response to the arrests of anti-government protesters from the previous day's sizeable rally, where calls for early elections echoed. In the capital, Belgrade, protesters employed metal barriers and garbage containers to obstruct key thoroughfares, including a vital bridge over the Sava River. Clashes erupted in the northern city of Novi Sad, where eggs were hurled at the offices of the ruling Serbian Progressive Party.

Protesters, predominantly students, demanded the release of dozens detained for alleged violence and planning to overthrow the government during Saturday's rally, which attracted tens of thousands amid months of dissent against populist President Aleksandar Vucic. Demonstrators condemned the government as "illegitimate" and warned of violence's consequences, which they attributed to state actions.

According to police, 48 officers were injured amid the unrest, while 22 protesters required medical attention; 38 individuals remained in custody facing criminal charges. Vucic announced further arrests were imminent, labelling protest organisers as inciters of violence and claiming accountability would follow. *—PTI*

TSUNAMI IMPACT ON FUKUSHIMA

China lifts 2-year ban on Japan seafood over radiation fears

BEIJING, 30 JUNE

China has reopened its market to seafood from Japan after a nearly two-year ban over the discharge of slightly radioactive wastewater from the tsunami-destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant. A notice from the customs agency said the ban had been lifted Sunday and that imports from most of Japan would be resumed.

The ban, imposed in August 2023, was a major blow to Japan's fisheries industry. China was the biggest overseas market for Japanese seafood, accounting for more than one-fifth of its exports.

The nuclear plant at Fukushima was heavily damaged by a deadly tsunami that followed a huge offshore earthquake in 2011. Water still must be pumped in to cool the radioactive fuel. The water is then stored in what was an ever-growing complex of tanks on the property.

After years of debate, the utility won government permission to discharge the water gradually into the sea after treating it to remove most of the radioactive elements. Japanese officials said the wastewater would be safer than international standards and have negligible environmental impact.

PHOTO: FREEPIK

China disagreed and imposed a ban, saying the discharge would endanger the fishing industry and coastal communities on its east coast.

The ban will remain in place for seafood from 10 of Japan's 47 prefectures, including Fukushima and nearby ones.

Japanese seafood exporters will have to reapply for registration in China and all imports will have to include a health certificate, a certificate of compliance for radioactive substance testing and a certificate of origin, the Chinese customs agency said. *—PTI*

Gold prices dip ₹200 to ₹97,470/10g

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Gold prices fell Rs 200 to Rs 97,470 per 10g in the national capital on Monday due to continuous selling by stockists, according to the All India Sarafa Association. Gold of 99.9 per cent purity had closed at Rs 97,670 per 10g on Friday. Extending the losses for the seventh straight day, gold of 99.5 per cent purity slipped Rs 150 to Rs 97,050 per 10g (inclusive of all taxes). It had settled at Rs 97,200 per 10g in the previous market session. Silver prices also went lower by Rs 200 to Rs 1,02,800 per kilogram (inclusive of all taxes) on Monday. Meanwhile, spot gold appreciated by USD 12.06 or 0.37 per cent to USD 3,286.31 per ounce in the global markets —*PTI*

Rupee falls by 23P, closes at 85.73 against USD

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Rupee pared initial gains and settled for the day in the negative territory, down 23 paise at 85.73 (provisional) against the US dollar on Monday, on weak domestic equities and a bounce back in crude oil prices. Forex traders said the rupee opened in the positive on improved global risk sentiments, however, a negative trend in domestic equities dented investor sentiments and dragged down the local unit. At the interbank foreign exchange, rupee opened at 85.48 against US dollar and witnessed an intra-day high of 85.44 and low of 85.77 before settling at 85.73 (provisional), down 23 paise from its previous close. Meanwhile, dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, fell 0.26 per cent to 97.14. —*PTI*

SKF to pump in ₹1,460 cr by 2030 for expansion

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Bearings maker SKF India plans to invest up to Rs 1,460 crore by 2030 to enhance its manufacturing capabilities across key facilities in both industrial and automotive segments, according to an investor presentation by the company. The company has facilities in Haridwar, Pune, and Bangalore. Under the plan, SKF India is looking to invest a total of Rs 800 crore to Rs 950 crore towards its industrial business over the next five years, on channel expansion to meet the growing demand in India and construction of a new plant in Pune by 2028, as per the presentation. These investments will focus on bearings for two-wheelers, electric vehicle (EV) powertrains, and wheel-end bearings for both passenger and commercial vehicles —*PTI*

Karnataka Bank shares falls by 6% as MD, ED resign

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Shares of Karnataka Bank on Monday fell by nearly 6 per cent after the private sector lender said its Managing Director & CEO Srikrishnan Hari Hara Sarma has resigned. The company's stock dropped 5.75 per cent to end at Rs 195.75 apiece on the BSE. Intra-day, it tumbled 8.49 per cent to Rs 190.05. On the NSE, it declined 5.65 per cent to settle at Rs 195.90 per share. Besides, executive director Sekhar Rao has quit citing his inability to relocate to Mangaluru and other personal reasons, the bank said in a statement on Monday. Sarma's resignation comes into effect from 15 July. The bank has formed a search committee to identify suitable candidates for the positions of a new MD & CEO as well as ED, it said. —*PTI*

Markets end 4-day rally; bank stocks major drag

Sensex fell by 452.44 pts while Nifty declined by 120.75 pts

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Benchmark equity indices Sensex and Nifty tumbled on Monday after a four-day rally amid emergence of profit-taking, mainly in bank stocks.

After staying in the negative territory throughout the day, the 30-share BSE Sensex later dropped 452.44 points or 0.54 per cent to settle at 83,606.46. During the day, it tanked 576.77 points or 0.68 per cent to 83,482.13.

The 50-share NSE Nifty declined 120.75 points or 0.47 per cent to 25,517.05.

From the Sensex firms, Axis Bank, Kotak Mahindra Bank, Maruti, UltraTech Cement, Bajaj Finance, ICICI Bank, Reliance Industries, Tata Steel, Bharti Airtel and HDFC Bank were among the major laggards.

However, Trent, State Bank of India, Bharat Electronics, Titan and Bajaj Finserv were among the gainers.

The BSE smallcap gauge climbed 0.81 per cent and midcap index went up by 0.67 per cent.

Among BSE sectoral indices, realty dropped 0.87 per cent, bankex (0.59 per cent), auto (0.49 per cent), metal (0.49 per cent), oil & gas (0.19 per cent) and financial services (0.17 per cent).

Capital goods jumped 1.10 per cent, services (1.08 per cent), industrials (0.66 per cent), healthcare (0.56 per cent) and consumer durables (0.42 per cent).

In the past four trading days, the Sensex jumped 2,162.11 points or 2.64 per cent and the Nifty surged 665.9 points or 2.66 per cent.

"The global market sentiment is moving in favour of equities on account of easing risk in the Middle East and the US trade deal hopes. However, the main domestic indices witnessed profit-booking after the recent rally."

Global oil benchmark Brent crude dipped 0.15 per cent to USD 67.67 a barrel.

On Friday, the Sensex climbed 303.03 points or 0.36 per cent to reclaim the 84,000 level and settle at 84,058.90. On the similar lines, the Nifty rose 88.80 points or 0.35 per cent to 25,637.80. —*PTI*

BRICS MEET AMONG SUMMITS

Sitharaman on 5-day mission to Spain, Portugal and Brazil

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman is leading a delegation to Spain, Portugal and Brazil to attend a host of events including the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (FMCBG). The three-nation visit will conclude on 5 July.

At Seville, Spain, the FM will attend the 4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FFD4) organised by the United Nations and deliver a statement on behalf of India.

She will also participate and deliver a keynote address at the International Business Forum Leadership Summit on "From FFD4 Outcome to Implementation: Unlocking the Potential of Private Capital for Sustainable Development" in Seville, the finance ministry said in a statement.

On the sidelines of the FFD4, she will meet senior ministers from Germany, Peru and New Zealand, as well as and the European Investment Bank (EIB) president.

In her next leg, she will visit Lisbon, Portugal, where she is expected to have a bilateral meeting with the country's Minister of Finance. Besides, she would interact with prominent investors and members of the Indian diaspora.

At Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Sitharaman will address the 10th Annual Meeting of New Development Bank (NDB) as India's Governor and also attend the BRICS Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting (FMCBG), it said.

As part of the NDB meetings, Sitharaman will also deliver an address during the NDB Flagship Governors Seminar on "a Premier Multilateral Development Bank for the Global South". On the sidelines, she will hold bilateral meetings with her counterparts from Brazil, China, Indonesia and Russia. —*PTI*

TARGETS 50GW BY 2030

Adani Green Energy achieves 15GW operational capacity

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Adani Green Energy Ltd (AGEL) announced today that its operational capacity has surpassed 15.53GW, comprising 11 GW of solar and 1.9GW of wind energy. This operational portfolio, totaling 15,539.9MW, is capable of powering approximately 7.9 million households, including 11,005.5MW from solar sources and 1,977.8MW from wind, alongside 2,556.6MW of wind-solar hybrid capacity.

Emphasising AGEL's ambitious targets, CEO Ashish Khanna expressed the company's goal to rapidly expand its renewable energy capacity from 15,000 MW to 50,000 MW by 2030, pledging to provide sustainable energy solutions for India and the world. The company claims this milestone represents the most rapid and extensive capacity addition to date in India and underscores AGEL's commitment to renewable energy, stating it could supply the entire northeast region with clean energy.

As AGEL marks a decade of operations in India, it also announced plans for the world's largest renewable energy plant at Khavda in Kutch, Gujarat, covering an area of 538 square kilometres, which is five times the size of Paris. Currently, 5,355.9MW of renewable energy has already been operationalised at Khavda, with the project expected to become the largest power plant globally across all energy sources once completed. —*PTI*

GST revenue doubles in 5 yrs, touches record ₹22.08L crore

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The government reported on Monday that gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) collections have doubled over the last five years, reaching an all-time high of Rs 22.08 lakh crore for the fiscal year ending 2025, a significant increase from Rs 11.37 lakh crore recorded in FY21. This achievement marks a 9.4 per cent growth compared to the previous fiscal year.

In FY25, the average monthly GST collection rose to Rs 1.84 lakh crore, up from Rs 1.68 lakh crore in FY24, contributing to an impressive revenue trajectory since the tax's introduction in July 2017. The number of registered GST taxpayers has soared from 65 lakh to over 1.51 crore within that period, highlighting successful tax base expansion.

The figures indicate gross GST demonstrated robust growth, with the highest monthly collection reaching Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April 2025. Over the past fiscal years, collections showed a progressive increase from Rs 20.18 lakh crore in 2023-24 down to Rs 18.08 lakh crore in 2022-23. —*PTI*

PwC calls for GST reform on its eighth anniversary

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

A report by PwC India has urged the GST Council, consisting of finance ministers from the Centre and states, to simplify GST compliance by reducing the current four-tier tax structure to three slabs and to broaden its base by including petroleum products.

As the Goods and Services Tax (GST), launched on 1 July 2017, marks its eighth anniversary, the report highlights a significant rise in average monthly GST collections from Rs 90,000 crore in 2017-18 to Rs 1.84 lakh crore in 2024-25, even reaching a peak of Rs 2.37 lakh crore in April 2025.

PwC argues that a streamlined three-tiered rate structure would enhance tax certainty and ease compliance challenges. Moreover, the inclusion of petroleum products, particularly Aviation Turbine Fuel, is advocated to eliminate cascading effects and improve cash flow for businesses. States still fear potential revenue losses, leading to a rejection of including ATF. —*PTI*

Fiscal deficit slips to 0.8% of full year target in May

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The central government's fiscal deficit fell to 0.8 per cent of the full-year target at the end of May, mainly due to a whopping Rs 2.69 lakh crore dividend received from the Reserve Bank of India.

The fiscal deficit, or gap between the government's expenditure and revenue, had touched 11.9 per cent of the Budget Estimates (BE) for 2025-26 or Rs 1.86 lakh crore in April.

Following the RBI's dividend payout, the Centre's fiscal deficit was reduced to 0.8 per cent of BE of 2025-26 or Rs 13,163 crore, the data released by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) showed.

The Centre estimates the fiscal deficit during 2025-26 at 4.4 per cent of the GDP or Rs 15.69 lakh crore.

It stood at 3.1 per cent of BE of 2024-25 in the first two months of the previous financial year.

According to the CGA, the amount the government received under the head 'dividends and profits' was Rs 2.78 lakh crore or 86 per cent of the BE.

The data on monthly accounts showed that the Government of India received Rs 7.32 lakh crore, 21 per cent of corresponding BE 2025-26 of total receipts, up to May 2025.

This comprised Rs 3.5 lakh crore tax revenue (net to centre), Rs 3.56 lakh crore of non-tax revenue and Rs 25,224 crore of non-debt capital receipts. —*PTI*

No rate change in small savings

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

The government on Monday left interest rates unchanged for various small savings schemes, including PPF and NSC, for the sixth straight quarter beginning 1 July, 2025. "The rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the second quarter of FY 2025-26 starting from 1 July, 2025 and ending on 30th September, 2025 shall remain unchanged from those notified for the first quarter of FY 2025-26," the finance ministry said in a notification. —*PTI*

German Green, Sillverton file IPO papers with SEBI

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Gujarat-based German Green Steel and Power and eco-friendly paper manufacturer Sillverton Industries have both filed preliminary papers with the capital markets regulator Sebi to raise funds through initial public offerings (IPOs).

German Green Steel aims to raise up to Rs 450 crore, featuring fresh issuance of equity shares worth Rs 325.21 crore to fund the expansion of its manufacturing facility and establish a hybrid wind and solar power plant. An additional Rs 55.01 crore will go towards debt repayment and corporate purposes.

The company reported a revenue of Rs 979.78 crore and a profit after tax of Rs 32.07 crore for the nine months ending December 31, 2024. —*PTI*

Reliance, US firms join hands on defence MRO

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Reliance Infrastructure-promoted Reliance Defence on Monday announced a strategic agreement with Coastal Mechanics, a leading US Department of Defence-authorised contractor, to jointly address India's Rs 20,000 crore defence maintenance, repair, overhaul (MRO) and upgrade market opportunity.

A statement from Reliance Infrastructure said, Reliance and Coastal Mechanics will focus on providing end-to-end MRO, upgrade and lifecycle support solutions for Indian Armed Forces, targeting a wide range of critical platforms such as 100+ Jaguar fighter aircrafts, 100+ MiG-29 fighter aircrafts, the fleet of Apache attack helicopters, L-70 air defence guns, and other legacy systems that require long-term sustainment and modernisation.

The MRO segment represents a high-value, long-duration opportunity driven by Indian military's strategic shift from asset replacement to lifecycle extension and performance-based logistics. —*PTI*

3 FACTORS GOVERN GROWTH

India's foreign assets grew 72% last fiscal: RBI

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

India witnessed a strong increase in its overseas financial assets during the financial year 2024-25, mainly driven by higher overseas direct investments, currency and deposits, and reserve assets, according to the latest data released by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

The data also highlighted that more than 72 per cent of the total growth in India's foreign financial assets came from these three components, with reserve assets alone accounting for over 54 per cent of the increase.

Currency and deposits, along with direct investments, also contributed significantly to the overall growth in overseas assets held by Indian residents.

During 2024-25, India's total external financial assets grew by USD 105.4 billion. In comparison, its external financial liabilities increased by USD 74.2 billion. As a result, the net claims of non-residents on India declined by USD 31.2 billion during the year.

The RBI report also noted that this decline in net claims was mainly due to a higher rise in Indian residents' overseas financial assets (USD 60.0 billion) than the increase in foreign-owned assets in India (USD 25.8 billion) in the January-March 2025 quarter.

On the liability side, inward direct investments, loans, and currency and deposits played a major role.

Loans increased by USD 10.0 billion, while inward direct investments went up by USD 9.7 billion during the quarter.

Overall, the data also showed a healthy improvement in India's international investment position, supported by strong asset creation abroad and a moderate increase in liabilities —*PTI*

Bank credit to industry expanded at 4.9%: RBI

MUMBAI, 30 JUNE

Bank credit to industry expanded at 4.9 per cent in the fortnight ended May 30, against 8.9 per cent growth in the corresponding period of the previous year, the Reserve Bank said on Monday.

The apex bank has released the data on sectoral deployment of bank credit for May 2025 collected from 41 select scheduled commercial banks (SCBs), accounting for about 95 per cent of the total non-food credit by all commercial banks.

On a year-on-year (y-o-y) basis, non-food bank credit as on the fortnight ended May 30, 2025, grew by 9.8 per cent as compared to 16.2 per cent during the corresponding fortnight of the previous year (May 31, 2024).

"Credit to industry recorded a y-o-y growth of 4.9 per cent, compared with 8.9 per cent in the corresponding fortnight of the previous year. Among major industries, outstanding credit to 'all engineering', 'construction' and 'rubber, plastic and their products' recorded an accelerated y-o-y growth," it said. —*PTI*

Call on pacer Bumrah in next 24 hours: Asst Coach

LONDON, 30 JUNE

A call on premier pacer Jasprit Bumrah playing the second Test will be taken in the next 24 hours, but India assistant coach Ryan ten Doeschate is pretty sure that his team will take the field with two spinners at Edgbaston. There is a growing clamour to include wrist spinner Kuldeep in the playing eleven, but to maintain the batting depth, Sundar is also in the mix to start alongside Jadeja. All three spinners bowled in the nets on Monday. Bumrah, who would be playing three out of five Tests in the series as part of workload management, held a two coloured ball (red and white) at the start of the training session before picking up the Dukes ball to bowl only towards the end of the session.—*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Azhar appointed Pakistan's red-ball head coach

LAHORE, 30 JUNE

The Pakistan Cricket Board today announces Azhar Mahmood as the acting red-ball head coach of the Pakistan men's team. Azhar will serve in this role until the conclusion of his current contract, the PCB said in a statement. "A seasoned cricketing mind, Azhar Mahmood steps into the role with an impressive portfolio of experience. Having served as the assistant head coach of the national side, Azhar has long been a pivotal part of the team's strategic core. "His deep knowledge of the game, combined with hands-on international exposure and proven success in the English county circuit, makes him exceptionally well-suited for this position," the PCB added. —*PTI*

PHOTO: X

Steve Smith is fit for Australia's Caribbean test

GRENADA, 30 JUNE

Charismatic Australian batter Steve Smith's quick recovery from a "compound dislocation" in the little finger of his right hand, and his sooner-than-expected return to the squad for the second Test against West Indies, has a baseball twist to it. Smith has suffered an injury to his right little finger while trying to take a difficult catch off South African captain Temba Bavuma at first slip during the World Test Championship final at Lord's earlier this month. The 36-year-old former Australian skipper immediately left London after his wound was cleaned, stitched, and his finger was placed in a splint. —*PTI*

PHOTO: PTI

Footballer Soumya Guguloth undergoes surgery

CHIANG MAI, 30 JUNE

Indian women's football team midfielder Soumya Guguloth has undergone a successful surgery after she suffered a nasal bone fracture during her side's AFC Asian Cup Qualifiers victory over Timor-Leste here. The 24-year-old is currently recovering at the team hotel. Soumya had tested the Timor-Leste defence a couple of times in the second half but could not convert the opportunities into goals. India won the group match 4-0 to notch their second consecutive victory on Sunday.—*PTI*

Ayush wins maiden US Open title; Tanvi runner-up

It was Ayush Shetty's third victory over Brian Yang

IOW,(US) 30 JUNE

US OPEN BADMINTON 2025

Ayush Shetty won US Open 2025 *PHOTO: BWF*

Rising shuttler Ayush Shetty notched up his first BWF World Tour title with a commanding straight-games victory over Canada's Brian Yang in the men's singles final of the US Open Super 300, ending India's title drought this season.

The 20-year-old, a 2023 junior world championships bronze winner, defeated the third-seeded Yang 21-18, 21-13 in 47 minutes on Sunday to cap off an impressive week, which included a come-from-behind win against top seed Chou Tien Chen in the semifinals.

It was Shetty's third victory over Yang, having defeated him twice earlier this year at the Malaysia and Taipei Open."It means a lot, it's my first title in the senior circuit. So I'm really happy," the 6 ft-4 inch shuttler told BWF."There are a lot of positives to take away.

I played some excellent badminton here, and I'm looking forward to the Canada Open next week."In the women's singles final, 16-year-old Tanvi Sharma finished runner-up after a three-game fight against top seed Beiwen Zhang of the United States.

Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded teenager went down 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in 46 minutes."I'm very happy with my performance. I was a bit nervous before entering the court, and I made many mistakes. In the women's singles final. From 11-9 at the interval, the Indian continued her aggressive approach, forcing errors from Zhang and taking the game to force a decider.

16-year-old **Tanvi Sharma** finished runner-up after a three-game loss to top seed Beiwen Zhang of the United States. Playing her first World Tour final, the unseeded teenager went down 11-21, 21-16, 10-21 in 46 minutes.

This is my first Super 300 final, so I'm happy about that," Tanvi said.

The men's singles final began evenly with scores tied at 6-6, but Shetty, seeded fourth, surged ahead with a string of winners to lead 11-6 at the interval.

Yang narrowed the gap to 13-11 and drew level at 16-16, but Shetty regained control with well-placed shots to secure the opening game with a decisive jump smash.

The second game saw the Mangalore shuttler race to a 7-2 lead before Yang briefly caught up, but the Indian maintained composure, mixing variations and sharp defence to keep his opponent at bay.

From 11-9 at the interval, the Indian continued her aggressive approach, forcing errors from Zhang and taking the game to force a decider. —*PTI*

Tanvi Sharma

ANDERSON -TENDULKAR TROPHY

Indian players take part in a nets session at Edgbaston *PHOTO: PTI*

Lack of variety in India's bowling attack is concerning: Chappell

LONDON, 30 JUNE

Australia batting legend Greg Chappell believes India paid the price for a lack of variety in their bowling attack during the first Test against England and has called for the inclusion of Arshdeep Singh and Kuldeep Yadav, whom he hails as the "best wrist-spinner since Shane Warne", in the playing XI.

India lost the opening Test of the five-match series by five wickets at Headingley, where they were also guilty of dropping as many as eight catches.

"As disappointing as the fielding in Headingley was, it was not the main reason India lost the Test.

Most of India's problems were self-inflicted. Perhaps the most expensive error was the no-ball that gave Harry Brook an early life in the second innings," Chappell wrote in his column for 'ESPNCricinfo'. Family emergency forces Archer to miss England's training session

England fast bowler **Jofra Archer** missed Monday's training session at Edgbaston due to a family emergency. But is expected to rejoin the squad on Tuesday ahead of the second Test against India.

The pacer, who had missed the opening Test, was added to the England squad for the five-match series last week.

"Men's fast bowler Jofra Archer will not be joining the England Test squad for today's training session at Edgbaston, Monday 30 June, due to a family emergency.

He is expected to rejoin the squad tomorrow, Tuesday," the England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) said on Monday. —*PTI*

Aryna Sabalenka powers past Branstine in opening match

LONDON, 30 JUNE

Top seed Aryna Sabalenka overcame Canadian qualifier Carson Branstine on a sweltering Court One to get her quest for a first Wimbledon title up and running with a 6-1, 7-5 win on Monday.

With the thermometer soaring above 30 degrees Celsius, the Belarusian turned up the heat early to win the opening five games and looked primed for a quick finish. But Branstine, who juggles her time between the tennis courts and working as a model, earned loud applause when she got on the scoreboard, and although Sabalenka eased to the first set, the second was an intense duel of fierce baseline rallies.

Maria Sharapova smiles alongside David Beckham on day one at Wimbledon *PHOTO: INSTAGRAM/MARIASHARAPOVA*

Sabalenka, seeded one at Wimbledon for the first time, usually overpowers her opponents with the sheer force of her game, but Branstine had firepower of her own. —*PTI*

2ND T20I IND- ENG W

India looks to ride on Smriti's form to continue winning momentum

BRISTOL, 30 OCT

A confident India will aim to capitalise on opener Smriti Mandhana's sublime form and hope for skipper Harmanpreet Kaur's availability to achieve another big win when the second Women's T20I against England is played here on Tuesday.

Mandhana's maiden T20I century in the opening game at Nottingham guided India to a massive 97-run win, and the likely presence of skipper Harmanpreet who was rested for the first game as a precautionary measure following a head injury sustained during a warm-up match for the second game, would only add to the hosts' worries.

Mandhana's stroke-filled century would have rung alarm bells in the English camp as it tries to find answers to the dramatic batting collapse it suffered while chasing a steep 210-run total.

It was a day when Mandhana's entertaining innings brought the hosts under tremendous pressure, which was later exploited by the Indian bowlers.

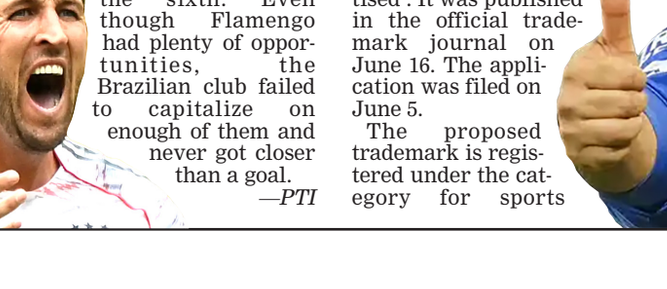
India struck twice early, and the slow bowler, especially left-arm spinner Shree Charani, who grabbed four wickets in her maiden T20I, completed the demolition job.

Though the left-handed batter said after the match that the T20I format wasn't her forte, it was a statement the cricket experts would take with a pinch of salt.

The long camp in Bengaluru, followed by their early arrival in England and a couple of tour matches, seems to have helped the Indian players get into the rhythm of the shortest format, as they showed no signs of rustiness in Nottingham. —*PTI*

Mighty PSG eyes cup after beating Messi's Miami

ATLANTA, 30 JUNE



PSG destroys Messi's Inter Miami, eliminating them from the Club World Cup *PHOTO: X/@PSG*

Paris Saint-Germain left no doubt it was Europe's top club with a historic victory in the Champions League.

Now, PSG is intent on conquering the world.

Les Rouge-et-Bleu turned in a dominating performance at the Club World Cup on Sunday, brushing aside Lionel Messi and Inter Miami with a first-half blitz that resulted in a 4-0 victory.

While the European powerhouses complained mightily about having to play in the newly expanded tournament at the end of a grueling season, PSG is taking the 32-team competition seriously.

Outside of a 1-0 loss to Brazilian club Botafogo in group play, PSG has won three games by a cumulative 10-0 since arriving in the United States.

"It's clear that this is a historic season for us. We intend to continue making history with this competition," PSG coach Luis Enrique said through an interpreter. "We're fighting to claim silverware. This season is very long for all the teams. But we're excited to be here."

PSG advanced to the quarterfinals, where it will face Bayern Munich next Saturday in Atlanta. The German club defeated Flamengo of Brazil 4-2.

There was a huge buildup to the game against Messi, who played two seasons at PSG before making the move to South Florida in the twilight of his brilliant career, and was facing his former coach at Barcelona.

But even with an eight-time Ballon d'Or winner leading the way, the club from Major League Soccer was simply no match for a deep, talented squad that routed Inter Milan 5-0 in the Champions League final a month ago. —*PTI*

Nat'l level teen boxer alleges harassment by coach

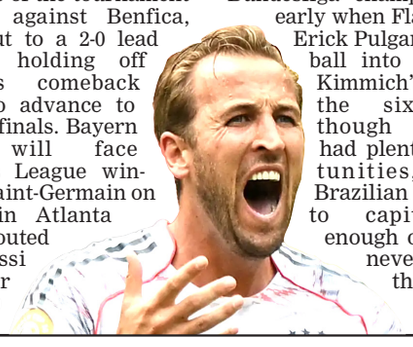
NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

A 17-year-old female boxer has levelled allegations of sexual harassment against a woman boxing coach posted at the Sports Authority of India's (SAI) National Boxing Academy in Rohtak, Haryana. Based on a complaint by the boxer, an FIR was registered against the coach under the POCSO Act (Prevention of Children from Sexual Offences) on Friday.

In the FIR, the boxer's mother has alleged "physical torture" and "sexual abuse" against her daughter by the coach during an Indian camp held in Ireland. The coach was the head of the training and exposure camp for India's youth boxers. The complaint has been registered under Bhartiya Nyay Sanhita's sections 115 (voluntarily causing hurt) and 351(3) (criminal intimidation), besides POCSO's section 10 (aggravated sexual assault). —*PTI*

Kane scores twice as Bayern Munich beats Flamengo 4-2

MIAMI GARDENS, 30 JUNE



Harry Kane scored twice and Bayern Munich capitalized on a quick start to beat Flamengo 4-2 in the Club World Cup round of 16 on Sunday.

Germany's premier soccer club regrouped quickly from its only loss of the tournament last week against Benfica, jumping out to a 2-0 lead and then holding off Flamengo's comeback attempts to advance to the quarterfinals. Bayern Munich will face Champions League winner Paris Saint-Germain on Saturday in Atlanta after PSG routed Lionel Messi and Inter Miami 4-0 earlier Sunday. Kane's first goal was a deflected strike nine minutes into the match that put Bayern up by a pair of goals, and the prolific goal scorer found the back of the net again on a feed from Joshua Kimmich that he whipped past goalie Agustín Rossi. The Bundesliga champion struck early when Flamengo star Erick Pulgar headed the ball into his net off Kimmich's corner in the sixth. Even though Flamengo had plenty of opportunities, the Brazilian club failed to capitalize on enough of them and never got closer than a goal. —*PTI*

TO CONTROL COMMERCIALISATION

Dhoni trademarks nickname 'Captain Cool'

NEW DELHI, 30 JUNE

Former Indian cricket team captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni has filed a trademark application for the phrase 'CAPTAIN COOL', a sobriquet widely associated with his calm on-field demeanour.

According to the Trade Marks Registry portal, the application's status is 'accepted and advertised'. It was published in the official trademark journal on June 16. The application was filed on June 5.

The proposed trademark is registered under the category for sports training, providing sports training facilities, sports coaching, and services.

- The proposed trademark is registered under the category for sports training, providing sports training facilities, sports coaching, and services.

No comments could immediately be obtained from Dhoni.

Interestingly, another company, Prabha Skill Sports (OPC) Pvt Ltd, had earlier filed a similar application for the phrase. However, that application's status is showing as 'rectification filed'.

Earlier this month, Dhoni was inducted into the ICC's Hall of Fame for the year 2025 along with seven cricketers, including Australian great Matthew Hayden and South Africa's Hashim Amla.

The ICC hailed Dhoni as a player who excelled not just in numbers but also in "extraordinary consistency, fitness and longevity".

"Celebrated for his calm under pressure and unmatched tactical nous, but also a trailblazer in the shorter formats, MS Dhoni's legacy as one of the game's greatest finishers, leaders and wicketkeepers has been honoured with his induction into the ICC Cricket Hall of Fame," the ICC statement had said. —*PTI*